

## **SUMMARY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICIES**

The Board of Education is committed to providing all students, regardless of disabilities, with a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment. Consistent with federal and state law, the Board of Education directs that the Rochester City School District implement with fidelity Policies 4200 through 4221, 5300.50 and 5300.51 of the Board of Education's Policy Manual and which are summarized below.

### **District Plan (Policy 4200)**

A policy which provides that Rochester City School District will develop a district-wide Special Education Plan, which shall be updated every two years.

### **Parent Involvement for Children with Disabilities (Policy 4201)**

A policy which describes the rights of parents, including the right to be fully informed about their child's education, the right to give and deny consent and the right to be involved in development of their child's special education program.

### **Students with Disabilities (Policy 4202)**

A policy which describes the Rochester City School District's commitment to providing all students with disabilities a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

### **Preschool Special Education Program (Policy 4203)**

A policy which provides that the District will ensure that pre-school students with a disability have the opportunity to participate in pre-school programs in the least restrictive environment.

### **Allocation of Space for Special Education Programs and Services (Policy 4204)**

A policy which provides that adequate and appropriate space be made available for special education classes in the district to meet the needs of the students.

### **Pre-Referral Intervention Strategies in General Education (Prior to Referral for Special Education (Policy 4205)**

A policy which provides that the District shall establish a plan for implementing interventions to remediate a student's performance prior to referring the case to the Committee on Special Education.

**Response to Intervention (RTI) Process (Policy 4206)**

A policy which describes the Response to Intervention (RTI) Program, wherein students who are suspected of having a potential learning disability are assessed and receive additional instruction, and whose parents are notified of their rights with respect to the RTI process.

**Appointment and Training of Committee on Special Education (CSE)/Subcommittee on Special Education Members (Policy 4207)**

A policy which describes the composition of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) as well as the composition of a CSE subcommittee.

**Appointment and Training of Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Members (Policy 4208)**

A policy which describes the composition of the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) as well as the composition of a CPSE subcommittee.

**Student Individualized Education Program (IEP): Development and Provision (Policy 4209)**

A policy which outlines the criteria to be considered when the CSE develops an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) for a student with a disability and also provides for evaluation and reevaluation of students with disabilities for the purpose of gathering information to be used in developing the student's IEP.

**Implementation of Individualized Education Programs (Policy 4210)**

A policy which provides that the Board of Education will establish a Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Preschool Education (CPSE) to ensure timely evaluation and placement of students with disabilities, and that the Board shall arrange for special education services and programs for students with disabilities in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

**Least Restrictive Environment (Policy 4211)**

A policy which provides that the Rochester City School District will educate students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment, with nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

**Grouping by Similarity of Needs (Policy 4212)**

A policy which provides that the Rochester City School District will group students with disabilities with other students according to their similarity of needs.

**Extended School Year (July/August) Services and/or Programs (Policy 4213)**

A policy which provides that the Rochester City School District will provide services during the months of July and August to those students with disabilities who have been determined by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) to require twelve month programming in order to prevent substantial regression.

**Declassification of Students with Disabilities (Policy 4214)**

A policy which describes the process of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) declassifying students who were previously identified as students with disabilities who had Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs), but who no longer meet the definition of a student with a disability under the law, as well as the support services to be offered to students who have been declassified by the CSE.

**Transition Services (Policy 4215)**

A policy which describes the services provided by the Rochester City School District to students with disabilities who are 15 years old or older, to assist those students in successfully moving from school to post-school activities, such as post-secondary education, employment, independent living, etc.

**Transfer Students with Disabilities (Policy 4216)**

A policy which describes the efforts the Rochester City School District will make to ensure a smooth transition for students with disabilities who either transfer into the District or out of the District.

**Identification and Registration of Children with Disabilities (Child Find) (Policy 4217)**

A policy which describes the Rochester City School District's obligation to locate and identify all students with disabilities who reside within the District.

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Policy 4218)**

A policy which provides that the District will ensure that students with disabilities will have access to a free, appropriate public education to the same extent as their nondisabled peers.

**Independent Educational Evaluations (Policy 4219)**

A policy which provides that a parent has the right to request an independent educational evaluation if the parent disagrees with an evaluation which was conducted by the District.

**Special Education Mediation (Policy 4220)**

A policy which provides that the Rochester City School District will provide a confidential mediation process which may be voluntarily used by parents whenever a dispute arises with respect to identification, evaluation, educational placement or provision of a free, appropriate public education of a student with a disability.

**Impartial Hearings/Selection of Impartial Hearing Officers (Policy 4221)**

A policy which describes the Impartial Hearing Process which may be used by parents in which an impartial hearing officer decides the outcome of a dispute with respect to identification, evaluation, educational placement or provision of a free, appropriate public education of a student with a disability.

**Found in Code of Conduct (Policy 5300)**

**Discipline of Students with Disabilities (Policy 5300.50)**

A policy contained within the Code of Conduct which describes the special process by which disciplinary matters for students with disabilities are resolved.

**Students Presumed to have a Disability for Discipline Purposes (Policy 5300.51)**

A policy contained within the Code of Conduct which describes the circumstances wherein a student who has not been classified as a student with a disability may be entitled to the safeguards which are applied in disciplining students who have been identified as having a disability.