



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES

1960 Landings Boulevard Sarasota, Florida 34231

Phone (941) 927-9000 Fax (941) 927-4052

Sonia Figaredo-Alberts, Executive Director
Pupil Support Services

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Dr. Todd Bowden, Superintendent
Dr. Laura Kingsley, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
School Board Members**

**FROM: Sonia Figaredo-Alberts, Executive Director
Pupil Support Services**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonia", is written over the name in the "FROM:" field.

DATE: March 5, 2018

RE: ESE Special Programs & Procedures (SP & P)

Please find attached, for your information and reference, an Executive Summary of the ESE Special Programs and Procedures (SP & P) document for the school years 2016-17 through 2018-2019.

The Executive Summary provides an overview of changes that have occurred since the last revision. The SP & P document was submitted to the Department of Education in May, 2017 (with minimal changes) and updated on March 1, 2018. The official pre-approval of the SP & P was provided on March 5, 2018 by the Florida Department of Education to be reviewed at the March 22nd School Board meeting. The signature page, confirming your certification of approval, will be submitted to the Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to quality programs for Sarasota's exceptional students.

**Cc: Chris Renouf
Steve Cantees
Tammy Cassels
Debra Giacalone**

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Special Programs and Procedures Document is submitted every three years by each Florida School District to the Department of Education. It may be amended at any time due to changes in legislation. Since the 1997-98 school year, the submission for all Florida school districts has been an addendum preprinted by the Department of Education assuring compliance with the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

The document is still based on Federal and State Statute and State Board of Education regulations; however, approximately 90% of the document is pre-printed by FLDOE and not subject to modifications by the district. New State Board of Education Rules have been developed in several ESE areas, along with major changes in legislation.

Areas, typically permitting district input, include qualified evaluators for student assessment, curriculum, program philosophy and descriptions of program support services. In the past, areas of district input are typically written broadly enough so that routine year to year program changes do not necessitate revisions of the district procedures document. This submission contains major changes in the document, which are summarized in the following areas:

The following changes were made due to rule and/or statute revisions:

Part I, General Policies and Procedures:

Section E: Individual Education Plans and Educational Plans for Transferring Exceptional Students

(rule revision) pages 53 - 55

- District procedures for students who transfer school districts within Florida
- District procedures for students who transfer to or from a Florida school district and a full-time virtual program
- District procedures for students who transfer from outside Florida
 - If a student has a gifted plan that was in effect in a previous school district in another state and transfers to Florida, gifted eligibility will remain in effect in Florida school district

Section G: General Education Intervention Procedures

(Updated and approved in May, 2017) pages 58 - 61

- District procedures include universal screenings, parent involvement and access to MTSS information, and the fidelity of interventions.

Part II, Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities:

Section B.7: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Homebound or Hospitalized

(rule revision) pages 99 - 102

- Includes definition, eligibility criteria, student evaluation, procedures for providing an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP), and details outlining how instructional services can be provided

Section B.15: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Visually Impaired

(rule revision) pages 129 - 131

- Includes definition, eligibility criteria, eligibility criteria, reevaluation process, qualifications of evaluators, and instructional considerations

Part IV, Policies and Procedures for Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities:

Section C: Gardiner Scholarship Program

(statute revision) pages 202 - 204

- Includes definition, eligibility criteria, and the school district's obligations upon request from parent(s)

Part V: Appendices

Appendix C: Data for Gifted Students and the Current Plan to Ensure the Participation of Underrepresented Students in the Gifted Program

- Includes present data regarding % of gifted students in general population, LEP and Low Socio-Economic Status Families
- Includes District Goal for increasing representation of LEP and Low SES

Appendix F: BPIE Indicator Rating Tally Sheet and BPIE Indicator Plan

- School districts are required to complete a Best Practices in Inclusive Education (BPIE) assessment every three years. BPIE is an internal assessment process designed to facilitate the analysis, implementation, and improvement of inclusive educational practices at the district and school team levels.
- The BPIE was first completed in February, 2015 and the district data indicated that 65% of Sarasota County School students (who have an Individualized Education Plan) spend at least 80% of their time with general education peers.
- The BPIE was updated in February, 2018, and progress continues to be evident. The data indicates that 78% of Sarasota County students received the majority of their services in a "regular class" setting during the 2016-2017 school year. The current average in the state of Florida is 74%.