

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: IHBA
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PROGRAMS FOR PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board believes all special needs students may benefit from receiving a free and appropriate public education according to the instructional needs of each student. In compliance with applicable federal and state laws, it shall be the policy of the board of education to provide all special needs students between the ages of 3 and 21 a free and appropriate education.

Special needs students are those who, because of certain atypical characteristics, have been identified by professionally qualified personnel as requiring special education planning and services. Such students will be identified on the basis of a physical, healthy or sensory disability, emotional disability, or behavioral problem, or observable exceptionality in mental ability, such as mentally retarded. Some special needs students may have more than one type of disability.

Students who are determined through professionally administered tests to have special needs will be eligible for due process with regard to identification, evaluation, and placement procedures. A written individualized educational program will be developed for each student with special educational needs. Educational placement decisions for each special needs student will place the student in the least restrictive environment appropriate to the student's learning needs whenever possible. Each special needs student's learning will be reviewed periodically for evaluation and reestablishment of the educational plan, if necessary. Graduation requirement for special needs students shall be determined according to the special needs student's completion of the individual program.

The facilities in which special education programs are provided will maximize the integration of special needs students into the life of the school and minimize the separation of such students. Students with limited mobility should have access to those areas of school facilities where they can be educated in the least restrictive setting. Provisions will be made for equipment and physical adaptations in public school facilities, where necessary, to comply with appropriate laws.

When required by the individual education plan, transportation arrangements for transportation of a special needs student to and from the educational facility will be provided in regular vehicles or, if necessary, specially adapted vehicles. When applicable, parents shall be responsible for getting the special needs students to the vehicles at curbside or driveway. However, parents may provide transportation for their own students to and from the educational facility.

Personnel who may be required to work with special needs students will be provided direct inservice training by the appropriate curriculum and instruction staff. Agents or employees of the board are responsible for locating students who may be in need of special educational services.