

CHAPTER: INSTRUCTION TITLE: SPECIAL EDUCATION

It is the policy of the Calhoun County Board of Education to follow the current federal and state regulations that govern the education of individuals with disabilities and gifted individuals aged 0-21 years. Specific policy statements concerning each phase of the special education process follow. For specific details regarding the procedures to implement this policy, consult the document called Calhoun County Schools Special Education Procedures that took effect July 1, 1996.

Identification/Referral

Calhoun County Schools shall conduct child find activities to ensure that all students with disabilities, ages 0-21, gifted students from first through eighth grades and exceptional gifted students in grades 9-12, are identified and referred for appropriate evaluation. Evaluation and Reevaluation

Calhoun County Schools shall conduct an initial multidisciplinary evaluation of referred students and conduct reevaluations of students to determine their educational needs.

Eligibility Activities

Calhoun County Schools shall establish and convene an Eligibility Committee to determine: 1) if the referred student meets the eligibility criteria in one of the designated exceptionalities; 2) if the determined exceptionality adversely affects the student's educational performance; and 3) if the student needs specially designed instruction.

Individualized Education Program

Calhoun County Schools shall initiate and conduct meetings for the purpose of developing, reviewing and if appropriate, revising the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for an exceptional student at least once a year.

Special Education and Related Services

Calhoun County Schools shall provide the special education and related services necessary to implement each student's IEP. This includes the collection of student data concerning progress toward IEP goals and objectives and periodic reporting of this progress.

Discipline

Calhoun County Schools shall: 1) protect the rights of an eligible student with a disability whenever suspension from school is considered as disciplinary action; 2) design and/or use nonaversive behavioral strategies; and 3) provide instruction/interventions to assist the student to function as independently as possible in integrated settings.

Procedural Safeguards

Calhoun County Schools shall protect the rights of each exceptional student and her or his parents, with respect to the provision of a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to prior notice of eligibility and IEP meetings; the right of parental participation in evaluation, eligibility and programming decisions; the right to have evaluations administered in the student's native language; and the right to mediation or due process hearing if parent or student feels their rights have been violated.

Determining Which Children are and are not Receiving Needed Special Education

Calhoun County Schools shall maintain a practical method for determining which children are receiving needed special education and related services and which children are not currently receiving special education and related services. The main vehicle for collecting and maintaining current and accurate data on which students are and are not receiving special education shall be through communication of eligibility committee decisions and IEP committee decisions to the Director of Federal Programs.

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