

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The goal of the district is to provide students needing educational supports with the opportunity to receive educational assistance within the general education program whenever possible.

The first level of intervention for students who may require such educational supports will typically be referred to the Student Assistance Team. The purpose of Student Assistance Team is to assess the needs of any student who is having academic difficulty and to provide educational supports and/or develop appropriate accommodations for the student. Such efforts to meet the student's needs in the regular education classroom may include, but are not limited to: curriculum accommodations, alternative teaching strategies, adaptations of teaching environments or materials, support services, consultation services and building-based teams. All accommodations and their results will be documented and placed in the student's records. Those students who are clearly in need of additional services will be efficiently and effectively identified.

A student with a disability may also be provided with accommodations in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 is a federal law that provides for appropriate accommodations that enable students to meet with success within the general education program. Eligibility for support under Section 504 is determined through a Team process. Should a student be eligible under Section 504, the Team will develop an appropriate Section 504 Plan for the student.

If the Student Assistant Team determines that a student may be in need of special education services, the student may be referred for further evaluation consideration of eligibility under federal and state special education laws. If a student is identified as a student in need of special education, an appropriate IEP (Individualized Education Plan) will be developed.

Special Services has as its aim the provision of programs which meet the needs, interests and abilities of each student, focusing on the individual's talents rather than on limitations. Whether these needs are academic, physical, emotional, psychological or sociological, all children shall be provided with an equal educational opportunity. The school district adheres to all state and federal laws with respect to the education of students with disabilities.

Legal References:

Federal

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1400 et seq

State

MGL c 71B (Chapter 766 of The Acts of 1972)
603 CMR 28.00

Cross Ref.: LB, Regulations with Other Schools and School Districts

Note: For a complete description of the school system's Student Assistance process, and procedures, refer to the Student Assistance Manual as developed by the Westfield Public Schools. This is available for review in the School Administration Office.

For a complete description of the school system's process for implementation of the requirements of Section 504 as developed by the Westfield Public Schools, refer to the Section 504 Manual. This is available for review in the School Administration Office.

Adopted: August 12, 1974

Revised: November 18, 2002

Revised: May 16, 2005