

## CHAPTER 14

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

#### Authority

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:7A-1 et seq., 18A:7B et seq., 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:40-4, 18A:46-1 et seq., 18A:46A-1 et seq., 18A:48-8, 39:1-1, U.S.P.L. 93-112, Sec. 504, 94-142, 101-476 and 99-457.

#### Source and Effective Date

R.1998 d.334, effective July 6, 1998.  
See: 30 N.J.R. 1219(b), 30 N.J.R. 2435(a).

#### Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

Chapter 14, Special Education, expires on July 6, 2003.

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#### SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### 6A:14-1.1 General requirements

(a) The rules in this chapter supersede all rules in effect prior to July 6, 1998 pertaining to students with disabilities.

(b) The purpose of this chapter is to:

1. Ensure that all students with disabilities as defined in this chapter, including students with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school, have available to them a free, appropriate public education as that standard is set under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq.); and, in furtherance thereof, to:

i. Ensure that the obligation to make a free, appropriate public education available to each eligible student begins no later than the student's third birthday and that an individualized education program is in effect for the student by that date;

ii. Ensure that a free, appropriate public education is available to any student with a disability who needs special education and related services, even though the student is advancing from grade to grade;

iii. Ensure that the services and placement needed by each student with a disability to receive a free, appropriate public education are based on the student's unique needs and not on the student's disability;

2. Ensure that students with disabilities are educated in the least restrictive environment;

3. Ensure the provision of special education and related services;

4. Ensure that the rights of students with disabilities and their parents are protected;

5. Assist public and private agencies providing educational services to students with disabilities; and

6. Ensure the evaluation of the effectiveness of the education of students with disabilities.

(c) The rules in this chapter shall apply to all public and private agencies providing publicly funded educational programs and services to students with disabilities.

1. Programs and services shall be provided to students age three through 21.

2. Programs and services may be provided by a district board of education at their option to students below the age of three and above the age of 21.

3. Each district board of education shall provide information regarding services available through other State, county and local agencies to parents of children with disabilities below the age of three.

(d) Each district board of education is responsible for providing a system of free, appropriate special education and related services to students with disabilities age three through 21 which shall:

1. Be provided at public expense, under public supervision and with no charge to the parent;

2. Be administered, supervised and provided by appropriately certified professional staff members;

3. Be located in facilities that are accessible to the disabled; and

4. Meet all requirements of this chapter.

(e) With the exception of students placed in nonpublic schools according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-6.5, all students with disabilities shall be placed in facilities or programs which have been approved by the Department of Education according to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-14 and 15.

(f) Each district board of education shall ensure that the hearing aids worn by children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing are functioning properly.

(g) All special education programs and services provided under this chapter shall be subject to review and approval by the Department of Education.

(h) All public and private agencies that provide educational programs and services to students with disabilities shall maintain documentation demonstrating compliance with this chapter.

Amended by R.2000 d.230, effective June 5, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 755(a), 32 N.J.R. 2052(a).

In (b), added i through iii.

#### Case Notes

Appropriateness of individualized education program focuses on program offered and not on program that could have been provided. *Lascari v. Board of Educ. of Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School Dist.*, 116 N.J. 30, 560 A.2d 1180 (1989).

Individualized program was not appropriate where goals could be objectively evaluated. *Lascari v. Board of Educ. of Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School Dist.*, 116 N.J. 30, 560 A.2d 1180 (1989).

Standard in evaluating individualized education program is whether program allows child "to best achieve success in learning." *Lascari v. Board of Educ. of Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School Dist.*, 116 N.J. 30, 560 A.2d 1180 (1989).

Discussion of former regulatory scheme for education of handicapped children. *Henderson v. Morristown Memorial Hospital*, 198 N.J.Super. 418, 487 A.2d 742 (App.Div.1985), certification denied 101 N.J. 250, 501 A.2d 922 (1985).

Student's sudden change in school behavior might not support expulsion if special classification indicated. *K.E. v. Monroe Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 77.

Individualized education program (IEP) implemented where evidence showed program appropriate and reasonable and student improved under prior IEPs. *A.S. v. Franklin Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 25.

Funds left unexpended after providing intervention services to handicapped children were not refundable if appropriately applied towards nonspecified operating costs. *Monmouth and Ocean Counties Early Intervention Programs v. Commissioner of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 152.

Stipulation in Pennsylvania court was not an acknowledgment of domicile so as to preclude parents from seeking New Jersey funding for placement of handicapped child. *J.D. and K.D., v. Middletown Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 78.

## Case Notes

There was no significant change in student's placement; board of education was not obligated to secure new placement and develop new individualized education plan upon student's expulsion. *Field v. Had-donfield Bd. of Educ.*, D.N.J.1991, 769 F.Supp. 1313.

Student ordered to undergo psychiatric evaluation. *Vernon Town-ship v. G.F.*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 56.

Testing results indicating special education student no longer percep-tually impaired justifies declassification. *C.W. v. Southern Gloucester County Regional*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 34.

Parents do have right to question whether program in settlement agreement meets requirements of statute if there has been change in circumstances. *D.R. by M.R. v. East Brunswick Bd. of Educ.*, D.N.J. 1993, 838 F.Supp. 184, on remand 94 N.J.A.R.2d(EDS) 145.

Settlement agreement was unambiguous. *D.R. by M.R. v. East Brunswick Bd. of Educ.*, D.N.J.1993, 838 F.Supp. 184, on remand 94 N.J.A.R.2d(EDS) 145.

School board's current out-of-district dayschool placement, rather than residential placement requested by parents, was most appropriate placement for neurologically impaired student with aggressive and disruptive behavior. *K.J. v. Runnemed Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 257.

School board's current out-of-district dayschool placement, rather than residential placement requested by parents, was most appropriate placement for neurologically impaired student with aggressive and disruptive behavior. *B.C. v. Flemington-Raritan Board*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 255.

Student suspended for posing threat to others could not return without reevaluation. *Englewood Board v. C.M.*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 112.

Nosebleeds did not pose serious enough problem to warrant emer-gent relief in form of home instruction. *Mount Laurel Board v. C.S.*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 110.

Student with aggressive behavior was withdrawn from school pending re-evaluation in order to protect fellow students. *Brick Township v. P.M.*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 83.

Scores and assessments established need to change student's classifi-cation to multiply handicapped. *L.R. v. North Plainfield*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 72.

Current placement in public school system, rather than residential placement, was more appropriate for multiply handicapped child. *J.M. v. Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 10.

Reevaluation of disabled child was proper. *P.B. v. Wayne Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 69.

Reclassification of multiply handicapped child as eligible for day training was improper. *A.V. v. Branchburg Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 62.

Returning child to mainstream school was appropriate. *D.F. v. Carteret Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 19.

Returning child to mainstream school; child was no longer multiply handicapped. *D.F. v. Carteret Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 19.

Classification of neurologically impaired student changed to emotion-ally disturbed. *D.I. v. Teaneck*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 237.

## 6A:14-3.9 Related services

(a) Related services including, but not limited to, coun-seling, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language services shall be provided to a student with a disability when required for the student to benefit from the educational program. Related services shall be provided by

appropriately certified and/or licensed professionals as spec-ified in the student's IEP and according to the following:

1. Counseling services that are provided by school district personnel shall be provided by certified school psychologists, social workers or guidance counselors.

2. Counseling and/or training services for parents shall be provided to assist them in understanding the special educational needs of their child.

3. Speech and language services may be provided as a related service to a student who is classified as "eligible for special education and related services." Assessment by a speech-language specialist is required. The student shall meet the eligibility criteria for the classification of "eligible for speech-language services" but shall not be classified as such.

4. Occupational therapy and physical therapy may be provided by therapy assistants under the direction of the certified and, where required, licensed therapist in accor-dance with all applicable State statutes and rules.

i. Prior to the provision of occupational therapy, assessment by a certified (and, where required, li-censed) occupational therapist and development of an IEP are required.

ii. Prior to the provision of physical therapy, assess-ment by a certified and licensed physical therapist and development of an IEP are required.

5. A district board of education may contract for the provision of counseling services, occupational therapy, and/or physical therapy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-5.

6. Recreation shall be provided by certified school personnel.

7. Transportation shall be provided as follows:

i. The district board of education shall provide transportation as required in the IEP. Such services shall include special transportation equipment, trans-portion aides and special arrangements for other assistance to and from and in and around the school;

ii. When out-of-district placement for educational reasons is made by a district board of education, trans-portion shall be provided consistent with the school calendar of the receiving school;

iii. When necessary, the case manager shall provide the transportation coordinator and the bus driver with specific information including safety concerns, mode of communication, health and behavioral characteristics of a student assigned; and

iv. For students with disabilities below the age of five, safety belts or restraint systems are required.

8. Other related services shall be provided as specified in the student's IEP.

(b) School personnel may give advice to parents regarding additional services which are not required by this chapter. Such advice places no obligation on the district board of education to provide or fund such services.

Amended by R.2000 d.230, effective June 5, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 755(a), 32 N.J.R. 2052(a).

Amended (a)4.

#### Case Notes

Parent of disabled child was not entitled to reimbursement for private physical therapy where sufficient progress had been made in school therapy. *C.F. v. West Milford Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 186.

School board was not required to provide nurse to change student's tracheotomy tube during school as related service under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as that service fell within Act's medical services exclusion. *A.F. v. Toms River Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 116.

Availability of comparable services at public school precludes school district's financial support of sign language interpreter at private school attended by auditory handicapped student. *M.S. v. Washington Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 28.

Neighborhood school with separated first grade classes was most appropriate placement for perceptually impaired student whose attention was easily distracted. *I.M. v. Atlantic City Board*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 250.

School district was under continued obligation to provide transportation as a related service to handicapped student even though costs had escalated. *D.P. v. Mantua Township Board*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 218.

Free and appropriate education in public school precluded tuition and transportation for non-approved private school. *A.S. v. Hasbrouck Heights*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 162.

Student with breathing difficulties in cold weather not entitled to transportation during winter months. *A.G. v. Glen Ridge Board*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 144.

Transportation from home to private sectarian school which disabled students attended by parental choice was not available. *A.K. v. Teaneck Board*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 116.

School aide not necessary for neurologically impaired student. *N.B. v. West Orange Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 205.

Demand that the Board of Education pay the cost of one-to-one aides for a 20-year old student with cerebral palsy and mental retardation was dismissed. *D.R. v. East Brunswick Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 145.

Private nursing care; not a related service under the Individuals with Disabilities Act. *L.M. v. East Brunswick Township Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 79.

"Repositioning" following surgery was "related service" for 6-year-old child suffering from cerebral palsy. *M.S. v. Barnegat Township Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 16.

Summer placement at private school was necessary related service for 18-year-old student. *C.M. v. Cherry Hill Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 156.

Board of education not required to provide outside psychotherapy; counseling could be provided within school during school day. *Clifton Board of Education v. M.L.*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 60.

## SUBCHAPTER 4. PROGRAMS AND INSTRUCTION

### 6A:14-4.1 General requirements

(a) Each district board of education shall provide educational programs and related services for students with disabilities required by the individualized education programs of those students for whom the district board of education is responsible.

(b) A district board of education proposal to establish, change or eliminate special education programs or services shall be approved by the Department of Education through its county offices.

(c) The length of the school day and the academic year of programs for students with disabilities, including preschoolers with disabilities, shall be at least as long as that established for nondisabled students.

(d) Programs for preschoolers with disabilities shall be in operation five days per week, one day of which may be used for parent training and at least four days of which shall provide a minimum total of 10 hours of student instruction, with the following exception:

1. Preschool disabled classes shall operate at least as long as any district program for nondisabled preschoolers, but not less than 10 hours per week.

(e) If a classroom aide is employed, he or she shall work under the direction of a principal, special education teacher, general education teacher or other appropriately certified personnel in a special education program. The job description of a classroom aide shall be approved by the Department of Education through its county offices.

(f) Physical education services, specially designed if necessary, shall be made available to every student with a disability age five through 21, including those students in separate facilities.

(g) When a student with a disability transfers from one New Jersey school district to another or from an out-of-State school district to a New Jersey school district, the child study team of the district into which the student has transferred shall conduct an immediate review of the evaluation information and the IEP.

1. If the parents and the district agree, the IEP shall be implemented as written.
2. The student shall immediately be provided a program through an interim IEP that is consistent with the current IEP when:
  - i. The district disagrees with the current evaluation and/or the current individualized education program;
  - ii. The parent disagrees with the proposed revisions to the individualized education program; and/or