PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Marathon City School District shall identify, evaluate and provide a free and appropriate public education to each child with disabilities residing within its boundaries, in accordance with state and federal law. Children with disabilities shall be programmed in accordance with the procedures outlined in state law. Special education programs in the Marathon City School District shall be operated under the auspices of the Marathon County Children with Disabilities Education Board.

Child-find activities shall be initiated within the district in an attempt to identify, locate and evaluate children with disabilities. District residents shall pay no fee for this service or any related screening. The annual school census shall contain questions designed to locate children who may have disabilities, however, such questions shall not be worded so as to constitute a referral under state law. Procedures shall also be established to ensure that follow-up calls are made to all individuals who indicate an interest in district programs for children with disabilities.

A public awareness campaign shall precede the school census to alert district residents to the district's programs for children with disabilities. The District Administrator shall report related costs to the Board, and is further directed to use public service announcements wherever possible. Necessary procedures and contact persons shall also be established to accommodate interagency referrals.

In addition, children shall be screened to determine if there is a reasonable cause to believe that a child has a disability upon first enrolling in a school of the district. The district shall also provide upon request screening opportunities to children who are below school entry age.

The individualized education program (IEP) process serves as the basis for specifying the child's educational program and services and as the vehicle for making student assessment decisions. Children with disabilities shall participate in state-required testing, with or without modifications, or alternative assessments as outlined in the child's IEP.

The identification of students eligible for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 shall be conducted at the building level. The Section 504 committee under the direction of the building administrator shall process referrals for students suspected of having a handicap or disability under Section 504. Eligibility decisions regarding a particular student shall be made on an individual basis.

The Section 504 Coordinator shall see that the district adheres to all due process safeguards for parental rights and appeal within the parameters of state and federal laws governing the operation of programs for children with disabilities.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 118.13 Wisconsin Statutes

121.54(3) 121.78(3)

Chapter 115, Subchapter V

PI 11, Wisconsin Administrative Code Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973

PL 94-142

CROSS REF.: 411, Equal Educational Opportunities

420, School Admissions 421, Entrance Age APPROVED: October 13, 1993

REVISED: November 10, 1993

REVISED: October 11, 2000

REVISED: June 11, 2003