

STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS

Background

The Division is committed to meeting the educational needs of exceptional students by providing special programming, services and facilities as recommended by the Director. The Division supports the integration of exceptional students when appropriate.

Procedures

1. For the purpose of this administrative procedure, the term students with exceptional needs shall refer to students with a disability and students who are gifted.
2. Referrals pursuant to Section 178 of the Education Act shall be made by the principal of the school to the Director or designate.
3. When students are referred to the Director or designate for study and evaluation, such referrals will be in writing describing the reasons for such study and evaluation.
4. Following receipt of the referral, the Director or designate shall, in consultation with the principal, teacher, parent or guardian, determine the nature and scope of any study and evaluation required. A report of the findings shall be communicated to the principal, teacher, parent or guardian.
5. The identification of students with exceptional needs shall be in accordance with Section 186 of the Education Act and the regulations pursuant to that Act (Regulation 1, Sections 48 - 52).
6. The Director shall be responsible for the designation of students with exceptional needs, in accordance with legislation.
7. The Director or designate shall determine the nature and scope of programs to be established in special education, such establishment to be based upon one or more of the following criteria:
 - 7.1 In response to demonstrated need;
 - 7.2 In accordance with Section 185 and 186 of the Education Act and the regulations pursuant to the Education Act;
 - 7.3 As an innovative program.
8. The Director or designate, in consultation with respective principals and other Division personnel, parent(s) and/or guardians shall assign students to programs in special education.

9. The Director or designate, in cooperation with the respective principals and other Division personnel, parent(s) or guardians initiates and facilitates the integration of students with exceptional needs who have been identified as suitable candidates for integration into regular classes.
10. The Director or designate, in cooperation with other Division personnel, shall be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the program and services provided to students with exceptional needs.
11. All new programs and significant changes to current programs for exceptional students shall require prior approval of the Director before being implemented.

Reference: Section 141, 142, 146, 156, 175, 178, 185, 186, 186.1, 187, 231, Education Act
Regulations 48, 49, 50, 51, 52