

DoDEA

Special Education Procedural Guide

INTRODUCTION

The Special Education Procedural Guide, provides guidance to the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) for the provision of services to students with disabilities. It is a reference manual to aid administrators, area and district personnel, and local Case Study Committees (CSC) in performing their assigned responsibilities.

The current revision reflects changes in the delivery of special education services as mandated by the 1997 amendment (PL 105-17) to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (PL 101-476) as implemented in DoD by DoD Instruction 1342.12 (April 11, 2005). In addition, this revision coincides with the implementation of the Special Education Computer System (Excent). The guide incorporates both the legislative changes necessitated by IDEA and the procedural changes brought about by automation.

It is the policy of DoDEA that students shall be provided a free, appropriate education in schools where placement and service decisions are based on the individual needs of the student, in the least restrictive environment and in accordance with the system's guiding principles. This policy is consistent with DoDEA mission to provide a quality educational program that prepares all students for success in a global environment.

Imbedded in this mission and policy is the practice of inclusive education, which is defined as the participation of all students, including those with disabilities, limited English proficiency, identified gifts and talents and other special needs in the general

education program, as appropriate. Supplementary aids and services are provided to these students where necessary in order for them to attain success. Inclusive education is grounded in the philosophy that ALL children can learn and should have equal access to a quality education and the opportunity to be challenged to perform at increased levels of achievement. DoDEA educators share the responsibility of educating all children through collaborative efforts and through implementing the guiding principles of the DoDEA Strategic Plan.