



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Lincoln, Massachusetts

DRAFT
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACCOMMODATIONS
(PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS)

The goal of the Lincoln Public Schools' special education programming is to allow each child to grow and achieve at their own level, to gain independence and self-reliance, and to be provided their education in the least restrictive environment as appropriate to meet their individual needs. The Lincoln Public Schools offers a variety of services and supports to meet the needs of children with disabilities. There is a strong commitment to quality education and inclusive learning opportunities for all children.

The requirements and regulations of Chapter 71B of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, will be followed when identifying children with disabilities, in referring a child for evaluation, in developing the individualized education program, and in assessing their educational progress. State regulations requires that children with disabilities from 3 years of age through 21 years of age who have not attained a high school diploma will be eligible for special education. Given the Lincoln Public Schools is a PK-8 school district, children with disabilities from 3 years of age through the completion of 8th grade will be eligible for special education.

The School Committee believes that most children with special needs can be educated in the regular school program if they are given specialized instruction, accommodations and the support they need to meet their individual needs. These children should also be given the opportunity to participate in the school system's non-academic and extracurricular activities.

The Committee recognizes that the District is committed to providing inclusionary learning opportunities to children with special needs within the general education setting. However, as appropriate, some students may require specialized instruction outside of the general setting in special classes or programs. In addition, when a child's needs cannot be met within the District, special programming outside of the school will be pursued within other public school programs such as collaborative programs or Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved private schools.

It is the desire of the Committee that the schools work closely with parents/guardians in designing and providing programs and services to children with special needs. Parents/guardians will be informed, and conferred with, whenever a child is referred for evaluation. In event of any disagreement concerning diagnosis, program plan, special placement, or evaluation, the parents will be accorded the right of due process.

The Committee will secure properly trained personnel to work with the children with special needs. Since the financial commitment necessary to meet the needs of all of these children is extensive, the Committee will make every effort to obtain financial assistance from all sources.

Deleted: that the needs of certain children are so great that special programs, special classes or special schools may be necessary. When appropriate within the public schools, the Committee will provide these children with access to schools where such instruction and accommodations are available.

LEGAL REFERENCES: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
M.G.L. 71B:1 et seq.
603 C.M.R. 2800 et seq.

SOURCE: MASC

Adopted at School Committee Meeting of _____