

III. Human Resources

D. Recruitment and Appointment

3. Special Education Staffing

The Narragansett School System is committed to providing a high quality education for every child. Recognizing that every student has unique learning needs, diversified learning opportunities are provided for all students throughout the district. Learning opportunities are enhanced with supplemental programs and services both in and outside of the classroom. Special education and related services are provided to support students with disabilities in achieving academic and functional performance.

A key element in the provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities is the availability of highly qualified teachers, related service personnel, and support staff to implement each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Professional development and training will be available regarding the requirements and intent of all regulations and research based practices used to provide an appropriate education for all student.

The Narragansett School System strives to continuously improve the quality of education to all students, and is dedicated to assess and evaluate the delivery of services to students with disabilities.

The Narragansett School System staffing plan will ensure that appropriate personnel are available to deliver the services and instruction required to fully implement student IEPs and provide FAPE in the least restrictive environment. This plan will be based on the needs of students and will follow the guidelines outlined in this policy. The staffing plan will follow these principles:

- All children can learn and the academic and functional performance of all students will achieve adequate yearly progress.
- Due to the unique needs of individual learners, children must be provided with positive learning opportunities that are supported, when necessary and appropriate, with special education and related services that are specifically directed at the individual education needs of students with disabilities.
- A full continuum of special education and related support services must be available to students both in and outside of the classroom as necessary.
- All children must be provided access to the general curriculum and special education services are provided in the least restrictive environment.
- It is vital that parents or guardians participate in a child's educational program and in the development and implementation of an IEP for their child. Parent involvement will be a regular part of the special education program and school activities.
- Special education teacher caseloads and staffing decisions should be based on providing the services a student needs in order to be successful, rather than on a specific category of disability or severity of disability.
- The special education services required by the student's IEP will be considered in determining instructional and related service caseloads.

III.D.3. Special Education Staffing (continued)

- There must be flexibility in special education staffing to address changes that may occur in a student's educational and functional needs throughout the school year.
- Staffing considerations should include the need to provide specific interventions to students without IEPs.
- Special education staffing must be compliant with federal and state law, regulations, and policies governing special education.

The Narragansett School System gathered input from the public while developing this policy. The public input period included an opportunity to mail or e-mail the school system from October 15, 2008 through November 19, 2008, and at School Committee meetings held on October 15, 2008, and November 19, 2008, and at the Narragansett Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held October 7, 2008. Notification of these opportunities were advertised in the Narragansett Times on Friday, October 10, 2008, and Friday, November 15, 2008. In addition, the notices were posted on the district's website and in the school offices.

First Reading: October 15, 2008

Second Reading: November 19, 2008

Adopted: December 17, 2008

Narragansett School System
Narragansett, Rhode Island