

**Vicksburg-Warren School District**  
**Child Find Policy for Children with Disabilities**

The Vicksburg Warren School District is committed to providing appropriate educational services to children with disabilities as mandated in the Individual with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA). The district will ensure that all children suspected of being children with disabilities within the school district, who may be in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated. This will include children suspected of being children with disabilities who are homeless children or are wards of the State, children who may be advancing from grade to grade, highly mobile children, including migrant children and children in the age range birth through nine (9) years that could be identified as Developmentally Delayed regardless of the severity of their disabilities.

The district will integrate the requirements of State Board Policy 4300 (TST process) as part of the *In-School Child Find process*.

The district will ensure that the In-School Child Find process encompasses all students—

- who are exhibiting significant academic difficulties;
- who are exhibiting significant behavior/discipline problems;
- who have failed one grade in grades K-3 (and are referred to the TST within the first twenty (20) days of a school year);
- who have failed two grades in grades 4-12 (and are referred to the TST within the first twenty (20) days of a school year);
- who have failed either of the preceding two grades and have been suspended or expelled for more than twenty (20) days in the current year (and are referred to the TST within the first twenty (20) days of a school year); and/or
- who have scored at the Minimal level on any part of the Grade 3 or Grade 7 Mississippi Curriculum Test (and are referred to the TST within the first twenty (20) days of a school year)

**SECTION I: FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The district provides free appropriate public education programming for students with disabilities ages three through twenty who are enrolled in the district.

**SECTION II: FULL SERVICE GOAL**

The district is committed to serving students with disabilities and hereby sets a goal of providing full educational opportunities to all students with disabilities through age twenty. The opportunities will be provided in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and relevant court decisions.

**SECTION III: CHILD FIND**

Each year Vicksburg Warren School District will have an awareness campaign aimed at finding and identifying unserved students with disabilities age birth through twenty one. When a student suspected of having a disability is referred, he/she will be evaluated and if a disability is recommended and confirmed by a Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team, he/she will be placed in

an appropriate special education program to ensure that provisions for a free appropriate public education (FAPE) are applicable to federal and state laws and relevant court decisions.

**SECTION IV: INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)**

The district will develop or revise, whichever is appropriate, and implement an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for each student with a disability. The IEP will be reviewed periodically but not less than annually.

**SECTION V: DUE PROCESS**

The district insures that students with disabilities and their parents are guaranteed due process with respect to the provisions of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) under IDEA.

**SECTION VI: PROTECTION IN EVALUATION/EXAMINATION**

Evaluation materials and placement procedures used by the district will be, to the maximum extent possible, selected and administered and will not be racially or culturally discriminatory as required under IDEA.

**SECTION VII: CONFIDENTIALITY**

The district will ensure protection of confidentiality of all data in the records relative to students with disabilities.

**SECTION VIII: LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

- (a) The district will, to the maximum extent appropriate, ensure children with disabilities, are educated with children who are nondisabled. The removal of children with disabilities from the *general* educational environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in *general education* classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.
- (b) The district will ensure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities for special education and related services. Placement of students with disabilities will be determined at least on an annual basis and will be as close to the student's home as possible. This does not mean that if there is only one student in a school and if he/she needs the services of a teacher in a self contained class that this will be provided on a one-to-one basis when there are several other children with the same need in a nearby school. These children will be brought together to be provided appropriate services. In selecting the least restrictive environment for each student consideration is given to any potential harmful effect on the child and the quality of service needed. If a student with a disability can function socially, emotionally, and mentally with students with no disabilities of a similar chronological age, he/she will be given that opportunity in accord with his/her IEP.
- (c) Equal opportunities for participation to the maximum extent appropriate in a variety of non-academic and extracurricular services will be available to children with disabilities.

**SECTION IX: PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOL CHILDREN**

To the extent consistent with the number and location of students with disabilities enrolled in private schools, the district will

- (a) be responsible for ensuring that the rights and protections under Part B of *IDEA* are given to children with disabilities

- (b) make opportunities available for their participation in activities assisted by or carried out under Part B of *IDEA*

**SECTION X: PLACEMENT IN PRIVATE SCHOOL**

For any student with a disability placed in a private school by local school district personnel as a means of providing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), the student will be provided a FAPE in accordance with federal and state laws concerning children with disabilities.

**SECTION XI: REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Special Education services for children with disabilities may be discontinued under the following procedures:

1. The parent initiates a request to discontinue special education services. District sends WPN for Review of IEP to parents; receipt is confirmed and IEP meeting is held. The parents agree in writing (Revocation of Services) to the discontinuation of services after consultation with the local district personnel.
2. The student is withdrawn from school by the parents.
3. A due process hearing results in a directive to remove the student from special education.
4. The following procedures are implemented in regards to the reevaluation of a student with disabilities;
  - 4.1 A report, including test results, test interpretations and a statement indicating why the student no longer has a disability in accordance with MDE eligibility criteria is written, signed and dated by the Assessment Team Core Members, data is submitted to the Screening Team for an ineligible ruling;
  - 4.2 For a student who is no longer in need of Language/Speech services; information is maintained on file to support the request for an ineligible Language/Speech ruling; the request for Language/Speech ineligible ruling form is submitted to the Screening Team for an ineligible ruling; and
  - 4.3 The removal is consistent with the student's IEP and the student is placed in the regular education program after verification of parent/guardian receipt of WPN for Change of Placement from Special Education to General Education.

**Legal Reference:** State Board Policy 7219 - State Policies Regarding Children with Disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004  
P.L. 108-446 - The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, 2004 Amendments; The federal regulations - *Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities: Final Rule* (34 CFR Part 300 and 301) - 2006.