

EDUCATION: PROGRAMS

Policy 512.6-R (previously 602.6-R)

Special Education

General Consideration in Special Placement

The Richmond School District Support Services staff recognizes and strongly supports the ideal of integration of all pupils in regular educational programmes. Accordingly, all new and existing special programmes will be conducted in accordance with the following principles:

1. Before a child is considered for special placement, it must be demonstrated that, with Support Services support, every effort has been made to meet the child's educational needs in a regular class setting.
2. Screening procedures will be closely observed to guard against improper placement.
3. Every child in a special facility will be integrated for as great a portion of each day as he/she can comfortably handle.
4. From the day a child is placed in a special facility, all efforts will be directed towards his/her successful return to regular programmes.
5. Accordingly, each child's programme will be closely monitored, and reassessment will be carried out as required; in any event, not less than once a year.
6. When a special facility is no longer appropriate for a child, transfer will be arranged at a conference similar to the one that arranged his/her placement.
7. It is expected that parents of children considered for special placement will be made aware of assessments carried out by Support Services or other professional staff. Results of assessments will be interpreted and discussed with the child's parent(s) or guardian; and any recommendations for placement or for special educational programmes will be decided in consultation with the child's parent(s) or guardian.
8. Parents or guardians have the right to review records maintained on their child. Arrangements for such review should be made through the school principal, and the review will take place in the presence of a member of the professional staff who is qualified to interpret the records.
9. With the exception of a legally required release, student records will be released to other agencies and departments only with the written consent of the child's parent or guardian.
10. A review of the programme and placement provided for an exceptional student may be requested by the child's parent or guardian through a written request to the principal of the child's school, or to the Director of Instruction (Special Programmes).