

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Sevier County Board of Education will provide a free appropriate public education to all disabled children ages 3-21, inclusive, residing within the jurisdiction of this school system. The plan for implementation of appropriate instruction and services will be in accordance with the current Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards of the State Board of Education, as well as state and federal law.

The Board will develop and periodically update a local plan for providing special education services for all disabled students. Specifically, the Board assures that:

1. All disabled children living within the school system have available to them a free, appropriate public education which emphasizes special education and related services to meet their unique needs; and
2. The rights of disabled children and their parents are protected.

The plan will aim toward meeting the following objectives:

1. To carry out a comprehensive screening and assessment plan emphasizing the early identification and evaluation of disabled students; a parent may seek an independent educational evaluation (IEE) if the parent disagrees with all or part of the assessment completed by the System; such an IEE may be paid for by the System if the IEE meets the System's criteria; however, the System may, at its option, initiate a due process hearing to show the System's evaluation was appropriate; if the System prevails in the hearing, the parent still may obtain an IEE but not at System expense;
2. To use the individualized education program (IEP) team for reviewing assessment, formulating programming, and determining placement for every disabled student;
3. To ensure that placements are made which educate disabled children in the least restrictive environment
4. To provide each disabled child with an individual educational program (IEP) specifically designed to meet his/her needs including class sizes that are in compliance with the required BEP formula (Such class sizes will be monitored periodically.);
5. To ensure that procedural safeguards required by state and federal laws are adhered to; and
6. To involve parents of disabled children in a meaningful, ongoing dialogue.

## CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENTS

Students with disabilities placed in the general education classroom will receive a free appropriate public education. The instructional needs of all students will be met. Equitable and educationally sound placement of all students including students with disabilities will be achieved. The state's BEP formula will be utilized in determining class size for all classrooms.

The provisions for a free appropriate public education and the requirements under state law and IDEA are met following the listed criteria.

1. Education placement decisions for all students, including students with disabilities, shall be made based on the instructional needs of the students;
2. Provide joint staff development and training of general education and special education teachers (models, strategies and interventions) for maintaining an inclusive classroom;
3. Facilitate interactive planning session with general education and special education teachers as well as paraprofessionals regarding each disabled student's IEP;
4. Training for general education teachers on modifications and accommodations to the IEP;
5. All students in the general education classroom should have access to the standard textbooks and instructional materials used in the class with alternative and supplemental materials provided as necessary;
6. Provide resources and supports such as supplemental aid and materials for students to progress in the general curriculum and be successful in the general education classroom ( e.g. assistive technology devices and services paraprofessional support, adaptations in the classroom);
7. Provide the technical assistance needed to general education teachers in order to address the needs of individual students; and
8. Training for paraprofessionals is provided to ensure that they acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to assist students in the general education classroom.

