

IHBA

Pittsfield School District

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The district shall provide a free appropriate public education and necessary related services to all children with disabilities residing within the district, required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and New Hampshire law.

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to the IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the district shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities not eligible for services under IDEA, but, because of a qualifying disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services, the district shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards. The safeguards shall address the students' identification, evaluation, educational safeguards, and educational placement. This system shall include notice and the opportunity for a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to examine relevant records, and impartial hearing with the opportunity for participation by the student's parent(s)/guardians(s), and representation by counsel, the right to be represented by legal counsel, and review procedure.

The district recognizes its obligation to provide an education for all students determined to be educationally disabled and in need of special education and related services. This obligation shall begin when a student reaches three years of age and shall continue until the student's twenty-first birthday or until such time as he/she receives a high school diploma, whichever occurs first, or until the child's individualize education plan (IEP) team determines that the child no longer requires special education in accordance with federal and state law. At the discretion of the superintendent and/or his/her designee, students who reach the age of twenty-one during the academic year may be allowed to complete the remainder of the school year.

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