

<h1>POLICY</h1>	2008	8503
	Instruction	

Subject: Appropriate Special Education Programs for Students with Disabilities

School-aged and preschool students with disabilities shall be provided with an appropriate special education program. Students with disabilities shall be provided special education in the least restrictive environment as defined in Section 200.1(cc) of the Commissioner's Regulations. A pupil with disabilities shall be provided the special education services determined by the Board of Education to be necessary to meet the pupil's special education needs. Students with disabilities placed together for purposes of special education shall be grouped by similarity of individual needs as defined in Section 200.1(ww) of the Commissioner's Regulations. This grouping shall be in accordance with the following:

- (a) *academic or educational achievement and learning characteristics* which shall mean the levels of knowledge and development in subject and skill areas, including activities of daily living, level of intellectual functioning, adaptive behavior, expected rate of progress in acquiring skills and information, and learning style;
- (b) *social development* which shall mean the degree and quality of the student's relationships with peers and adults, feelings about self, and social adjustment to school and community environments;
- (c) *physical development* which shall mean the degree or quality of the student's motor and sensory development, health, vitality, and physical skills or limitations which pertain to the learning process; and
- (d) *management needs* which shall mean the nature of and degree to which environmental modifications and human or material resources are required to enable the student to benefit from instruction. Management needs shall be determined in accordance with the factors identified in each of the three areas described in clauses (a)-(c) of this subparagraph.

Commissioner's Regulations Part 200 and Part 201

Approved: Board of Education
February 25, 2004

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June 11, 2008