

POLICY RELATING TO EDUCATION

SPECIAL NEEDS

In keeping with the intention of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to offer educational opportunities to all students which will enable them to lead fulfilling and productive lives, the District shall provide appropriate educational opportunities to all resident students in accordance with the requirements of state and federal statutes.

The goals of the Wachusett Regional School District's special education program shall be to allow each child to grow and achieve at one's own level, to gain independence and self-reliance, and to return to the mainstream of school society as soon as possible.

The requirements of Chapter 71B and the Massachusetts General Laws (known as Chapter 766 of the Acts of 1972) and state regulations will be followed in the identification of children with special needs, in referrals for their evaluation, in prescribing for them suitable programs, and in assessing their educational progress. In keeping with state requirements, all children with special needs between the ages of 3 through 21 who have not attained a high school diploma or its equivalent will be eligible for special education.

The Wachusett Regional School Committee believes that most children with special needs can be educated in the regular school program if they are given special instruction, accommodations, and the support they need. These children should also be given the opportunity to participate in the school system's non-academic and extra-curricular activities.

However, the Committee recognizes that the needs of certain children are so great that special programs, special classes, or special schools may be necessary. When appropriate programs, services or facilities are not available within the public schools, the Committee will provide these children with access to schools where such instruction and accommodations are available.

It is the will of the Committee that the schools work closely with parents in designing and providing programs and services to children with special needs. Parents will be informed, and conferred with, whenever a child is referred for evaluation. In the event of any disagreement concerning diagnosis, program plan, special placement, or evaluation, the parents will be accorded the right of due process.

POLICY RELATING TO EDUCATION

SPECIAL NEEDS (continued)

The District shall secure properly trained personnel to work with the children with special needs. Since the financial commitment necessary to meet the needs of all of these children is extensive, the Committee will make every effort to obtain financial assistance from all sources.

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Second Reading: 09/25/95

Amendment First Reading: 04/13/98

Amendment Second Reading: 04/27/98

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