

DRAFT

Warwick Public Schools Special Education Staffing

The Warwick Public School System is committed to providing a high quality education for every child. Recognizing that every student has unique learning needs, diversified learning opportunities are provided for all students throughout the district. Learning opportunities are enhanced with supplemental programs and services both in and outside of the classroom. Special education and related services are provided to support students with disabilities in achieving academic and functional performance.

A key element in the provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities is the availability of highly qualified teachers, related service personnel, and support staff to implement each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Professional development and training will be available regarding the requirements and intent of all regulations and research based practices used to provide an appropriate education for all students.

The Warwick Public School System strives to continuously improve the quality of education to all students, and is dedicated to assess and evaluate the delivery of services to students with disabilities.

The Warwick Public School System staffing plan will ensure that appropriate personnel are available to deliver the services and instruction required to fully implement student IEP's and provide FAPE in the least restrictive environment. This plan will be based on the needs of students and will follow the guidelines outlined in this policy. The staffing plan will follow these principles:

- The assignment of personnel will be based on student needs rather than a specific category of disability or severity of disability.
- The full continuum of special education and related support services for students will be available as determined by the IEP team, consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and State regulations of the Board of Regents Governing the special Education of children with disabilities.
- The school district recognizes that parent participation is critical in the development and implementation of the IEP for their child. Parental involvement is and will be a regular part of the special education process, as well as school activities.
- Staffing decisions will support placement of students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment as determined by their IEP Team.
- Flexibility in special education staffing is essential to address changes that may occur in a student's educational and functional needs throughout the school year.
- Related service personnel staffing considerations will include the need for collaboration and consultation with general education teachers so that appropriate interventions are available in the least restrictive environment.
- Special Education staffing must be compliant with federal and state law, regulations, and policies governing special education.

The Warwick Public School System gathered input from the public while developing this policy. The public input period included an opportunity to mail or e-mail the school system from () through (), and at School Committee meetings held on **February , 2009** and **March, 2009** . Initial draft presented for review at the Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held January 14, 2009.

Notifications of these opportunities were advertised in the Warwick Beacon on () , and () . In addition, the notices were posted on the district's website and in the school offices.

First Reading: **February ,2009**

Warwick, Rhode Island

Second Reading: **March , 2009**

Warwick, Rhode Island

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