

Special Education - Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

1. FAPE and Age Ranges

The MESD through resolution services or direct contracts with its component school districts and public agencies provides special education and related services to all resident school-age students with disabilities, as provided below:

- a. "Preschool-age children" are children 3 to 5 years of age and "School-age children" are children who have reached 5 years of age but have not yet reached 21 years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year.
- b. The MESD will admit an otherwise eligible student who has not yet reached 21 years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year.
- c. An otherwise eligible person whose 21st birthday occurs during the school year will continue to be eligible for FAPE for the remainder of the school year.
- d. The MESD provides FAPE to students with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school in accordance with the special education discipline rules.

2. Nonacademic Services

- a. The MESD with the resident district provides equal opportunity for students with disabilities for participation in nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities.
- b. Nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities may include meals, recess periods, counseling services, athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interest groups or clubs sponsored by the resident district, referrals to agencies that provide assistance to individuals with disabilities, and employment of students, including both employment by the resident district and assistance in making outside employment available.
- c. The MESD ensures that each child with a disability participates with nondisabled children in the extracurricular services and activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of each individual child.

3. Graduation

- a. A student graduating with a regular high school diploma is no longer entitled to FAPE.
- b. The MESD provides prior written notice a reasonable time before a student with a disability graduates with a regular high school diploma.
- c. The MESD is not required to conduct a reevaluation before terminating eligibility due to graduation with a regular high school diploma.
- d. Graduation with an alternative document:
 - (1) The MESD may award an alternative document meeting the criteria of the State Board of Education alternative document to a student with a disability.

- (2) Graduation with an alternative document does not terminate eligibility, require an evaluation or require prior written notice.
- e. The MESD may, but is not required to, provide special education and related services to a student who has graduated with a regular diploma.

4. Incarcerated Youth

- a. The MESD has a plan, approved by the local Board, to provide or cause to be provided, appropriate education for children placed in a local or regional correctional facility located in the resident district.
- b. The MESD provides FAPE for students with disabilities ages 18 through 21 incarcerated as adults in an adult correctional facility if, in the last educational setting before their incarceration:
 - (1) Were identified as students eligible for special education; and
 - (2) Had an IEP
- c. The MESD's provision of FAPE does not include:
 - (1) The requirements relating to participation of children with disabilities in statewide and MESD assessments.
 - (2) For students whose eligibility for services will end before their release, the requirements related to transition planning and transition services do not apply. The MESD makes this determination based on considerations of the sentence and eligibility for early release. Requirements relating to transition planning and transition services, with respect to the students whose eligibility will end, because of their age, before they will be eligible to be released from adult correctional facilities based on consideration of their sentence and eligibility for early release.
 - (3) The IEP team may modify the student's IEP or placement if the state has demonstrated a bona fide security or compelling penological interest that cannot otherwise be accommodated. Least restrictive environment requirements do not apply with respect to these modifications.
 - (4) The public agency responsible for the special education of students in an adult correctional facility is not required to provide notice of meetings to the parent after rights transfer to the student

5. Residential Placement

If the IEP team determines that placement in a public or private residential program is necessary to provide FAPE to a student with a disability, the MESD and resident district ensures that the program, including nonmedical care and room and board, is provided at no cost to the parents of the student.

6. Physical Education

- a. The MESD makes physical education services, specially designed if necessary, available to every child with a disability receiving FAPE, unless the school enrolls children without disabilities and does not provide physical education to children without disabilities in the same grade.

- b. The MESD provides the opportunity to each child with a disability to participate in the regular physical education program available to nondisabled children unless the child needs specially designed physical education as prescribed in the child's IEP.
- c. If specially designed physical education is included in the child's IEP, the MESD must provide the services directly or make arrangements for those services to be provided through the resident district or other public or private programs.
- d. If the child with a disability is enrolled full time in a separate facility, the MESD must ensure that the child receives appropriate physical education services.

7. Public Charter Schools

- a. The MESD serves children with disabilities attending charter schools sponsored by the MESD in the same manner and in accordance with applicable laws and rules governing the MESD's provision of services to children with disabilities in its other schools.
- b. The MESD convenes an IEP meeting as soon as possible following notification by the charter school that a student with a disability has enrolled.
- c. The MESD provides supplementary and related services on site at a resident district charter school to the same extent to which the MESD has a policy or practice of providing such services on the site to its other public schools.
- d. The MESD ensures that resident children attending charter schools not sponsored by the MESD are provided special education and related services in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 338.165.
- e. If a child with a disability enrolls in a charter school, the charter school is considered the school the child would attend if not disabled. Enrollment in any charter school is by parent choice. Enrollment in any out-of-resident district charter school does not require an interdistrict transfer agreement.

8. Recovery of Funds for Misclassified Students

The MESD ensures that students identified on the special education child count under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are limited to students who:

- a. Meet eligibility requirements under Oregon Administrative Rule(OAR) 581-015-2130 to 2180;
- b. Have a current IEP that is being implemented;
- c. Are receiving a FAPE;
- d. Are enrolled in the MESD programs.

9. Students with Disabilities under IDEA Enrolled in Public Benefits or Insurance

With regard to services required to provide FAPE to a child with disabilities under IDEA, the MESD:

- a. May not require a parent to sign up for or enroll in public insurance programs in order for their child with disabilities to receive FAPE but may pay the cost that the parent otherwise would be required to pay; and
- b. May not use the child's benefits under a public insurance if that use would:
 - (1) Decrease available lifetime coverage or any other insured benefit;

- (2) Result in the paying for services that would otherwise be covered by the public benefits insurance program and that are required for the child outside the time the child is in school;
- (3) Increase premiums or lead to the discontinuation of insurance; or
- (4) Risk the loss of eligibility for home- and community-based waivers, based on aggregate health-related expenditures; **and**

Prior to accessing a student's or parent's public benefits or insurance for the first time, and annually thereafter, the MESD must provide prior written notification to the student's parents and must obtain written consent that:

- a. States the personally identifiable information that may be disclosed (e.g. records or information about the services that may be provided to the student);
- b. States the purpose of the disclosure (e.g. billing for services under IDEA);
- c. Names the agency to which the disclosure may be made (e.g. Medicaid); and
- d. Specifies that the parent understands and agrees that the public agency may access the parent's or student's public benefits or insurance to pay for services under IDEA:
 - (1) Acknowledges the MESD may not require parents to incur an out-of-pocket expense (i.e. payment of a deductible or co-payment in current in filing a claim for special education or related services), but may pay the cost that the parent otherwise would be required to pay; and
 - (2) Acknowledges the district may not use the student's benefits under a public insurance program if that use would:
 - (a) Decrease available lifetime coverage of any other insured benefit;
 - (b) Result in the family paying for services that would otherwise be covered by the public benefits or insurance program and that are required for the student outside of the time the student is in school;
 - (c) Increase premiums or lead to the discontinuation of insurance; or
 - (d) Risk loss of eligibility for home and community-based waivers, based on aggregate health-related expenditures.

10. Accessible Materials

- a. The MESD ensures the timely provision of print instructional materials, including textbooks that comply with the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards (NIMAS) for students who are blind or print disabled.
- b. The MESD ensures the timely provision of instructional materials in accessible formats to children who need instructional materials in accessible formats, including those children who are not blind or print disabled.

11. Extended School Year (ESY) services as per administrative regulations, Special Education - Individualized Education Program (IEP) - IGBAF.

12. Assistive technology devices or services as per administrative regulations, Special Education - Individualized Education Program (IEP) - IGBAF