

# Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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| Policy 5.24 School Age Services | Effective: 9/23/16 |
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## SCHOOL AGE SERVICES

### POLICY

The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities School Age Program provides educational services to students (ages 5 through 21) with intensive cognitive/medical/physical needs, multiple disabilities, significant behaviors, and autism spectrum disorders that are unable to be served by their home school district. The Board shall adopt and meet compliance requirements with the *Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities*, and enrollment process as described for County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

The objective of the school services is to provide students with skills needed to be more involved members of their community. In addition to academics, skills in communication, self-care, socialization, independent living vocational, and leisure areas are taught on an individualized/small group basis to best meet student needs. Instruction is organized into four major areas – Common Core Standards, Community Education, Vocational/ Independent, and Recreation/Leisure – and focus is placed on instruction taking place in community settings routinely used by students and their families.

The Board will accept referrals for admission and evaluate the student’s appropriateness based on their inability to be served by their local school district due to either medical or behavioral challenges. Collaborative efforts with the school districts also include transitional services for students beginning at the age of 14 years old to promote movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living or community participation. These educational opportunities are a part of each student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) beginning from the age of 14 years old. The student, parents, home school district representative and representatives from other public agencies involved in providing services help to determine the individualized transition plan the student will receive. The central focus of transition services is to ensure that necessary services and supports are in place for the student to succeed upon leaving school.

Finally, it is the Board’s policy to charge school districts excess costs. The rationale for this measure is to offset unreimbursed costs from the Ohio Department of Education for this discretionary service provided by the Board.

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| <b>Historical Resolution Information</b> |                          | <b>Reviewer(s):</b><br><br>Principal of School Programs<br>Superintendent |
| <b>Date</b>                              | <b>Resolution Number</b> |   |
| 4/27/13                                  | 04-33-13                 |   |
| 8/23/16                                  | 08-36-16                 |   |

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## SCHOOL AGE SERVICES

### PROCEDURE

- I. The goal of the school age program is to provide the education services that will ultimately provide students the needed services and skills for the student to return to their home school district. The Board holds to the belief that people with disabilities should be a part of their community and have equal access to and the opportunity for full participation in education.
- II. Parents/guardians inquiring about school age services and enrollment are referred to their Local Education Agency (LEA) to request enrollment or a change in placement.
- III. Students are referred by their local school district and placement requires:
  - a. Determination of county board eligibility by a qualified Service and Support Administrator
    - i. The evaluation data used to verify eligibility must be current within ninety (90) days of enrollment.
    - ii. The evaluation is to be conducted by appropriately licensed or certified specialists/psychologists.
    - iii. The district of origin is required to gather this information and present an ETR (Education Team Report).
  - b. Approval of the student's local school district;
  - c. Consent of the child's parent/guardian; and
  - d. Agreement by the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities that placement is appropriate.
  - e. District of Residence must provide a current IEP (Individual Education Plan) and ETR (Evaluation Team Report) prior to the student's first day of attendance.
  - f. A completed enrollment packet must be in place.
- IV. Student placement is determined by the IEP team along with the Local Education Agency (LEA) as an educational option on the continuum of services offered in Stark County. Students must be enrolled in their local school district. The law requires that an IEP, which outlines goals, objectives and therapy services be developed for each student. It is prepared cooperatively with home school district staff, Board staff and parents or guardians.

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- V. Effective July 1, 2014, the State Board of Education adopted new Rules 3301-51-01 to 3301-51-09, 11 and 21 of the Administrative Code. These rules are referred to as the *Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities*. The intent of these standards is to ensure that children with disabilities have equal access to and the opportunity for full participation in education, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. School Programs are required to comply with the above mentioned Operating Standards for any student with a disability determined eligible and enrolled.