

**601.18 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

The board recognizes some students have different educational needs than other students. The board will provide a free appropriate public education program and related services to students identified in need of special education. The special education services will be provided from birth until the appropriate education is completed, age twenty-one or to maximum age allowable in accordance with Iowa Code 281.8. Students requiring special education will attend general education classes, participate in nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities and receive services in a general education setting to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of each individual student. The appropriate education for each student is written in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Special education students are required to meet the requirements stated in board policy 506.5 and in their IEPs for graduation. Prior to the student's graduation, the IEP team shall determine that the requirements have been met.

Children from birth through age 2 and children age 3 through age 5 are provided comprehensive special education services within the public education system. The school district will work in conjunction with the area education agency to provide services, at the earliest appropriate time, to children with disabilities from birth through age 2. This is done to ensure a smooth transition of children entitled to early childhood special education services.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent and the area education agency director of special education to provide or make provisions for appropriate special education and related services in the least restrictive environment.

LEG REF        *Board of Education v. Rowley*, 458 U.S. 176 (1982).  
                  *Springdale School District #50 v. Grace*, 693 F.2d 41 (8th Cir. 1982).  
                  *Southeast Warren Comm. School District v. Dept. of Public*  
                  *Instruction*, 285 N.W.2d 173 (Iowa 1979).  
                  20 U.S.C. §§1400 *et seq.*  
                  34 C.F.R. Pt. 300 *et seq.*  
                  Iowa Code §§ 256.11(7); 256B; 273.1; .2; .5; .9(2)-(3); 280.8.  
                  281 I.A.C. 41.109; 41.404