

APPENDIX C

§300.222 - §300.223

INTERMEDIATE UNIT 20:

FULL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES GOAL AND TIMELINES

FULL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES GOAL AND TIMELINES

The Colonial Northampton Intermediate Unit intends to pursue the full educational opportunities of all children with disabilities through its adoption of regulations (22 PA Code Chapter 14).

PURPOSE

The Intermediate Unit and its constituent school districts shall, by direct service or through arrangement with other agencies, provide the following:

- (1) Services and programs planned, developed and operated for the early identification and evaluation of each exceptional student, including early intervention for eligible young children.
- (2) A continuum of services and programs to provide instructional support to a student recommended for screening under Sections 14.21 thru 14.25 (relating to screening and evaluation process) and found by the screening to be in need of assistance to achieve in school according to the documented needs and abilities of the student.
- (3) A continuum of services to provide instructional support to assist eligible students to benefit from regular education programs, to the maximum extent appropriate.
- (4) A free appropriate public program of education for each exceptional student which is based on the unique needs of the student, not solely on the classification of the student.
- (5) Opportunities for each eligible student, including students in public or private day or residential facilities, to interact with noneligible students and adults in community and school based activities, when appropriate.
- (6) An education for each eligible student which approximates as nearly as possible the approved curriculum of the school district.
- (7) An education for each eligible student which is designed to enable the student to participate fully and independently in the community, including preparation for employment or higher education.

- (8) An appropriate program of early intervention services and programs for eligible young children as specified in Chapter 14 and Chapter 342. (Appendix B; 14.2 & Appendix C; 342)

In regard to the Intermediate Unit's detailed timetable to reach the goal of providing full educational opportunity to all children with disabilities, the Intermediate Unit believes it has reached the goal by its policies and following Chapters 14, 342 and Act 212.

In regard to a description of the kind and number of facilities, personnel and services necessary throughout the State to meet the goal of providing full educational opportunity for all children with disabilities, the Commonwealth has existing full array of services whereby students may receive FAPE, as appropriate, in classrooms in regular education, in the home, in community settings, in hospitals, and institutions, and in other settings. Additionally, the policy of placements extends beyond what is often thought of as traditional locations in Pennsylvania and is guided by BEC 22-92, "Nontraditional Placement Options for Special Education".

In regard to the kind and number of facilities, the State Board of Education's regulations provides for a range of placement options. Examples of these alternative placements includes:

- (1) Regular classroom instruction for the entire school day, with instructional support including modification to the regular instructional program and individualization of instruction by the classroom teacher for part of the school day.
- (2) Regular classroom instruction for all or most of the school day, with supplemental aids and services provided by a special education teacher or related service staff member.
- (3) Special education services and programs outside the regular class for most or all of the school day, with some instruction in the regular classroom or opportunities for participation with nonexceptional students in nonacademics and extracurricular activities in a regular education environment.
- (4) Special education services and programs outside the regular school, including the following:
 - (i) Special education services and programs provided in a school district or intermediate unit special education center, with opportunities for some instruction in the regular classroom or opportunities for a participation with noneligible students in nonacademic and extracurricular activities in a

regular education environment to the maximum extent appropriate.

- (ii) Special education services and programs provided in an approved private school, with opportunities for some instruction in the regular classroom or opportunities for participation with noneligible students in nonacademic and extracurricular activities in a regular education environment to the maximum extent appropriate, subject to 14.43 (relating to approved private schools).
- (iii) Special education services and programs provided with parental consent in a residential school, residential facility, State school or hospital or special secure setting on an individual or group basis.
- (iv) An approved out-of-State program, subject to the requirements of Section 14.44 (relating to placement in out-of-State schools).

In regard to first priority children (children with disabilities who are entitled to FAPE and not receiving any education) and second priority children (children with disabilities, within each disability category, with the most severe disabilities who are receiving an inadequate education), the Intermediate Unit has implemented services such that there are no first and second priority children in the Colonial Northampton Intermediate Unit area.

This is so by review of this application requiring that all children between 3 and through 21 years of age has FAPE made available to them. Additionally, child identification, location and evaluation is also fulfilled, as required for children under 3 years of age, as described throughout this plan.