

DISTRICT ASSURANCES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Jackson Public School District is committed to providing appropriate educational services to children with disabilities by ensuring the delivery of educational opportunities that meet the needs and enrich the lives of JPS scholars with disabilities through age twenty-one. These opportunities will be provided per applicable state and federal laws and court decisions.

SECTION I: FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

The District will provide a free appropriate public education to children ages three (3) through twenty (20), with a disability who need special education and, as appropriate, related services as defined under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2007 (IDEA), Mississippi statutes, and the Mississippi Department of Education policies. A free appropriate public education will be provided to scholars with disabilities who are enrolled in the district and who are residing within the jurisdiction of the district. These services will be provided at no cost to the parent, will meet the standards of the Mississippi State Board of Education, and will stand in conformity with a scholar's Individualized Education Program (IEP). The provision of a free appropriate public education will continue for a scholar with a disability through the school year in which a scholar reaches age twenty-one (21) if the scholar was enrolled in the district and was twenty (20) at the beginning of the school year.

Preschool scholars who have been determined to have a disability under IDEA, Part B, shall be provided a free appropriate public education following an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) no later than their third (3) birthday.

Children participating in early-intervention programs under Part C of IDEA, and who are eligible and will participate in preschool programs under Part B of IDEA, will experience a smooth and effective transition to the district's preschool program. Appropriate district personnel will participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the Department of Health, the lead agency for Part C of IDEA.

Per Part B of IDEA regulations, scholars with disabilities who have graduated from high school with a general education diploma are not entitled to a free appropriate public education by the district.

Procedures for implementing this policy by the district are those contained in the state regulations that are relevant to local school districts and issued by the Mississippi Department of Education.

SECTION II: FULL -SERVICE GOAL

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The District will continue its efforts to search for under-served children, ages birth through twenty-one, who need special education and related services as defined under IDEA, Part B. Children with disabilities, including children who are homeless or are wards of the State, regardless of their

disability, are identified, located, and evaluated for services. Following IDEA, Part B, the District will conduct Child Find activities for children who reside in the district's jurisdiction and who are enrolled in the district.

Similar Child Find activities undertaken for the public-school children enrolled in the District will be conducted concerning the identification, location, and evaluation for those children with

SECTION VI: INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)

In accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education policies and regulations, the district will ensure the development, implementation, review, maintenance, and revision of each scholar's IEP periodically, but not less than annually. Educational placement decisions will be determined by a scholar's IEP Committee, except when a school official has the authority under IDEA, Part B, to remove a scholar with a disability from the scholar's current placement due to a violation of school rules. The district will initiate and conduct IEP meetings to develop, review, and revise the IEP of a scholar residing within its jurisdiction who is provided special education and related services in accordance with the regulations issued by the Mississippi Department of Education. The district's procedures for implementation of this policy are those contained in the state regulations issued by the Mississippi Department of Education.

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