

## **STATE SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND SERVICES**

The State Special Schools & Services Division is a subdivision of the California Department of Education (CDE) that provides services to deaf, hard of hearing, blind, and visually impaired students, in addition to assisting school districts with special education programs including assessment services, technical assistance and staff development through their Diagnostic Centers.

The State Special Schools & Services Division operates schools for deaf and blind students, and also provides intensive, disability-specific educational services for students between the ages of 3-22.

### ***Procedure for Referral for Further Assessment***

A referral for the assessment of a student must follow the guidelines below.

1. Prior to referring a pupil for further assessment to California Schools for the Deaf or Blind or to one of the Diagnostic Centers, assessments shall first be conducted at the local level within the capabilities of the District.
2. The District should complete a referral request. Results of the District assessments shall accompany the referral request. The reason for the referral shall be discussed with the parents/guardian. The District refers a student by submitting an application packet. Applications are reviewed by the Admissions Committee at the State School or Diagnostic Center to determine if the applicant meets the admissions criteria set forth in 5 C.C.R. sections 17660-17663.
3. The Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and the Diagnostic Centers, shall conduct assessments pursuant to the provisions of Education Code section 56320.
4. A representative of the District shall participate in the staffing meeting and shall receive copies of the final report and recommendations.

### ***Procedure for Referral for Placement***

The procedure for a placement referral is as follows:

1. Referrals for placement shall be made only as a result of recommendations from the IEP team, upon determining that no appropriate placement is available in the District. Parents have the right to appeal any decision of the IEP team, including whether their child should be referred to a state special school.
2. Whenever a referral for placement is being considered to one of the state special schools, the IEP team shall include a representative of the District. A representative from the state special schools should also be invited to the IEP meeting where placement is being discussed.
3. If the IEP team (including the representative from the District) determines that a referral to a state special school is appropriate, a case manager shall be designated to coordinate the referral process.

As provided within Ed. Code section 59300, the district of residence for the parent/guardian of any student attending a state special school is responsible for 10% of the excess cost of the placement. The cost for a student placed less than a full year is prorated based on the number of days in attendance.

***Review of Placement at State Special Schools***

Upon placing a student with a state special school, the District should clarify the legal obligations of the state special school to hold IEP meetings for the student and re-evaluate and assess the student as needed.

The District shall be notified of any upcoming reviews or IEPs of students placed in state special schools. The District may request assistance from the County Office of Education (if appropriate) in attending the review or IEP, considering assessment results, or any other activity needed.