

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 133 947

EC 092 854

TITLE Regulations and Procedures: Special Education Program.

INSTITUTION Georgia State Dept. of Education, Atlanta. Office of Instructional Services.

PUB DATE 76

NOTE 67p.

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.83 HC-\$3.50 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS *Child Advocacy; Confidentiality; Definitions; Delivery Systems; Due Process; Elementary Secondary Education; Exceptional Child Education; *Gifted; Guidelines; *Handicapped; Instructional Materials; *Legislation; Program Development; *State Programs; Student Placement

IDENTIFIERS *Georgia

ABSTRACT

Provided is information on legislation, procedural safeguards, and programing for exceptional (handicapped and gifted) children with particular emphasis on education in Georgia. In chapter 1, the Adequate Program for Education in Georgia law (Chapter 32-6A) is annotated. Outlined in chapter 2 on procedural safeguards are guidelines for general provisions of services to special needs children, due process, the least restrictive environment, nondiscriminatory testing and placement, and confidentiality. Outlined in chapter 3 are general provisions for program development; alternative delivery models; facilities, equipment, and materials; and transportation. Information on a definition, eligibility and placement, enrollment, and facilities is presented for each of the following exceptionalities: mental retardation, behavior disorders, specific learning disabilities, visually impaired, hospital/home instruction, speech impaired, physically and/or multiply handicapped, hearing impaired, audiology, and intellectually gifted. Focused on in a final chapter are grant programs in Georgia for the trainable mentally retarded, and the multiply handicapped, psychoeducational centers for the severely emotionally disturbed, and the Georgia Learning Resources System. Appendixes include sample parental consent forms, a sample hearing review notification form, a sample information release form, and a list of definitions. (SBH)

 * Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
 * materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
 * to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
 * reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
 * of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
 * via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
 * responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
 * supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

ED 133947

REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Office of Instructional Services
Division of Early Childhood
and Special Education
Georgia Department of Education
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Jack P. Nix
State Superintendent of Schools

1976

EC 092854

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. The Law	i
II. Procedural Safeguards	
A. General Provisions	
1. Communications to Parents	1
2. Testing – Limitations	1
3. Procedures and Forms	1
4. Rights to be Accompanied	1
5. Referral for Evaluation	1
6. Notice	2
B. Due Process	
1. Evaluation	3
2. Initial Placement	4
3. Hearing Process	6
4. Surrogate Parents	8
C. Least Restrictive Environment	
1. Program Alternatives	9
2. Procedures	9
3. Implementation	9
D. Non-discriminatory Testing and Placement	10
E. Confidentiality	
1. Access Rights	11
2. Hearing Rights	11
3. Consent	12
4. Safeguards	12
5. Destruction of Data	13
III. General Provisions	
A. Provisions for Establishing a Program	
1. Comprehensive Plan	14
2. Special Education Advisory Committee	14
3. Special Education Placement Committee	16
4. Individualized Education Program	17
5. Program Completion	17
B. Delivery Models	
1. Categorical Resource Program	18
2. Interrelated Resource Program	18
3. Crisis Intervention Program	19
4. Self-Contained Program	19
5. Modified Self-Contained Program	19
6. Special Day School Program	19
7. Multi-System Program	20
8. Residential Program	20
C. Facilities, Equipment and Materials	21
D. Transportation	22

IV. Program Areas

A.	Mental Retardation	
1.	Definition	23
2.	Eligibility and Placement	23
3.	Enrollment	24
4.	Facilities	24
B.	Behavior Disorders	
1.	Definition	25
2.	Eligibility and Placement	25
3.	Enrollment	25
C.	Specific Learning Disabilities	
1.	Definition	26
2.	Eligibility and Placement	27
3.	Enrollment	26
D.	Visually Impaired	
1.	Definition	27
2.	Procedures	27
3.	Enrollment	28
4.	Facilities, Equipment, Materials	28
E.	Hospital/Home Instruction	
1.	Definition	29
2.	Eligibility and Placement	29
3.	Delivery Models	29
4.	Facilities, Equipment and Materials	29
F.	Speech Impaired	
1.	Definition	30
2.	Placement and Eligibility	30
3.	Continuum of Services	30
4.	Delivery Models	31
G.	Physically and/or Multi-Handicapped	
1.	Definition	32
2.	Eligibility and Placement	32
3.	Enrollment	32
4.	Facilities and Equipment	33
H.	Hearing Impaired	
1.	Definition	34
2.	Eligibility and Placement	34
3.	Enrollment	34
4.	Facilities	34
I.	Audiology	
1.	Role of the Audiologist	35
2.	Establishment of Staffing and Program Needs	35
J.	Intellectually Gifted	
1.	Definition	37
2.	Eligibility and Placement	37
3.	Delivery Models and Enrollment	37

V. Special Programs

A.	Grant Program for the Trainable Mentally Retarded	
1.	Authorization	39
2.	Appropriation	39
3.	Grant Requirements	39

B.	Grant Program for the Multi-Handicapped	
1.	Authorization	40
2.	Application	40
3.	Eligibility	40
4.	Selection	41
5.	Participation of Schools	41
C.	Psychoeducational Centers for the Severely Emotionally Disturbed	
1.	Definition of Children to be Served	42
2.	Eligibility and Placement	42
3.	Regulations and Procedures	42
D.	Georgia Learning Resources System	47

VI. Appendices

A.	Parental Consent for Evaluation	48
B.	Parental Consent for Placement	50
C.	Parental Consent for Interim Placement in a Crisis Intervention Program	52
D.	Notification of Local Hearing Review Board Meeting	54
E.	Authorization to Release Information	56
F.	Definitions	57
G.	Conceptualization of Administrative Arrangements for Serving Handicapped Children	58

I. THE LAW

Chapter 32-6A. Adequate Program for Education in Georgia. Code of Georgia Annotated (1974, 1975)

Section 5. Special Education

- (a) All children and youth who are eligible for the general education program, preschool education, or who have special educational needs and three- and four-year-old children who are either physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped or perceptually or linguistically deficient shall also be eligible for special education services. Children, ages zero to five years, whose handicap is so severe as to necessitate early education intervention may be eligible for special education services. Children and youth with special needs are those who have emotional, physical, communicative, or intellectual deviations, or a combination thereof, to the degree that there is interference with school achievements or adjustments, or prevention of full academic attainment and who require modifications or alterations in their educational programs. This definition includes children who are intellectually gifted, mentally retarded, physically handicapped, speech handicapped, behaviorally disordered, hospital or homebound, handicapped by a specific learning disability, multi-handicapped, autistic, hearing impaired, visually impaired and any other areas of special needs which may be identified. The State Board of Education shall adopt classification criteria for each area of special need to be served on a Statewide basis, both for students to be served in a self-contained setting and those who can be served effectively in the regular classroom by itinerant personnel.
- (b) Local units of administration shall, subject to any limitations hereinafter specified, provide a special education program for all students with special needs who are residents of their school systems, either by establishing and maintaining such educational facilities and employing such professional workers as are needed by these students or by entering into a contract with other school systems or Cooperative Educational Service Agencies for such services.
- (c) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to provide educational and training services for children who have special educational needs such as emotional, physical, communicative, or intellectual deviations, or any combination thereof, to the degree that there is interference with school achievements or adjustments, or prevention of full academic attainment, and who require modifications or alterations in their educational programs. This definition includes children who are mentally retarded, physically handicapped, speech handicapped, multiple handicapped, autistic, intellectually gifted, hearing impaired, visually impaired, and any other areas of special needs which may be identified. The State Board of Education may provide such educational and training services by
- (1) Contracting with or making grants to suitable private or public institutions, or with both public and private institutions, inside or outside the State of Georgia, for the provision of such services;
 - (2) Contracting with suitable public agencies and departments, including institutions in which eligible children are confined and outpatient centers serving eligible children, inside and outside the State of Georgia, for the provision of such services; or
 - (3) Entering into reciprocal agreements with other states or political subdivisions thereof for the provision of such services.

- (d) The State Board of Education may promulgate any rules, regulations and standards and establish the terms and conditions governing the provision of State aid hereunder and perform any and all acts necessary or proper to carry out the provisions, intent and purpose of this Section.
- (e) It is further provided that every child and youth eligible for special education services shall have access to a quality program on or before two years after the date this Act becomes law.

NOTE: All children with special needs shall be served on or before July 1, 1977.

**Section 9. Establishment of Other Special Programs of Education;
Allotment of Teachers and Other Personnel; Sharing of Costs**

- (a) The State Board of Education shall have authority to provide for implementation of other educational programs not ordinarily coming within the prescribed curricula of the public schools, which may or may not require use by local units of additional specially qualified personnel and special equipment necessitating allotment of additional personnel and funds. The State Board is authorized to establish priorities, standards and criteria for implementation and operation of such programs as the Board may, in its discretion, find necessary or desirable to implement on a statewide basis. Local units may, prior to implementation of such programs by the State Board, implement such programs locally in accordance with criteria and standards prescribed by the State Board. The State Board shall, upon implementation of such programs, establish a uniform basis for allotment of additional personnel and funds if such additional allotments are necessary for operation of such programs.
- (b) The State Board of Education shall annually determine the amount of funds needed for operation of the State schools for the deaf and blind and such other special schools for exceptional persons as may be established by the State Board of Education. Such funds shall be made available for the operation of these schools under rules and regulations prescribed by the State Board of Education.
- (c) The State Board of Education shall annually determine the amount of funds needed for elementary and secondary programs operated within correctional institutions, hospitals, mental institutions and other such programs. The State Board of Education shall annually allot additional funds to local units of administration wherein State boards maintain an institution primarily for the detention of persons within school age, and operate within such institution an elementary, secondary or vocational school for the education of such school-age children, which shall be sufficient to enable the local unit to furnish certified teachers and other professional personnel to school and institution in accordance with the State minimum salary schedule; provided, however, that the course of instruction offered in such school shall meet minimum academic requirements and standards prescribed for operation of the public schools of the local unit. The State Board is authorized, in its discretion, to make an allotment of additional funds to the local unit for employment of such teachers and other professional personnel for an additional two months during the fiscal school year where the school in such institution is operated on a 12-month basis.

Section 25. Transportation

- (a) The amount of funds needed by a county, area school, independent school system to pay expenses of pupil transportation shall be calculated by the State Board of Education in

accordance with a schedule of standard transportation costs to be incurred by local units of administration in the operation of economical and efficient pupil transportation programs and a schedule of variable transportation costs or variable cost factors dependent upon circumstances prevailing in the several local units of administration which affect, in varying ways, the costs of pupil transportation authorized by this Section; provided, however, that the amount of funds to be actually distributed to any local unit of administration under provisions of this Section during any school year shall not exceed the actual costs incurred by the local unit in transporting pupils to and from public schools, and costs of transporting to preschool programs all handicapped students either by minibus or other such transportation used by non-handicapped children, including costs for transportation for handicapped children who must travel across county lines or away from their own school district within the State. It is further provided that the costs of the regular pupil transportation program receive full funding before funds are provided for transportation of students to and from places for the purpose of work experiences, training in instructional laboratories, and in other such field trips required of or integral to the various instructional components of the educational program. In establishing the schedule of standard and variable pupil transportation costs or cost factors for the purpose of allotting funds under this Section, the State Board is, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, authorized to consider facts and circumstances such as the number and density of pupils transported in the local unit and the areas therein served by school busses, the suitability of school bus routes in the local unit, the suitability of the type and number of busses used by the local unit, the number of miles traveled by school busses in the local unit, minimum bus loads, transportation surveys, cost of transportation equipment and depreciation schedules therefor, the schedule of minimum salaries for school bus drivers established in accordance with subsection (b) of this Section, the number of school bus drivers allotted to the local unit, maintenance, repair and operating costs of transportation equipment, climate and terrain, condition of roads used for the purpose of transporting pupils in the local unit, cost of liability insurance, cost of safety instruction and training for both bus drivers and students and such other facts and circumstances as the State Board may find to be relevant for the purpose of establishing such schedule and cost factors. The State Board shall have authority to establish minimum requirements and standards respecting use of funds allotted under this Section.

- (d) Pupils who live beyond one and one-half miles from the school to which they are assigned, according to the nearest practical route by school bus, shall be eligible to be counted as transported pupils for the purpose of calculating that portion of the expense of pupil transportation associated with transporting pupils from home to school and from school to home as authorized under subsection (a) of this Section, provided such pupils are actually transported to such school by school bus or other vehicle made available for this purpose by the local unit of administration. Any pupil who resides within the said mileage limitation shall not be eligible to be counted for school transportation State-aid purposes, with the exception of handicapped students being transported to special programs.

Section 26. Public Libraries

- (b) The State Board of Education shall further make adequate provisions for staff, supplies, services and facilities to operate and maintain special media equipment to meet the library needs of Georgia's blind and handicapped citizens.

Section 38. Calculated Cost of Instructional Services

(a) The total amount of funds needed by a local unit of administration in order to provide the instructional services assured under the Adequate Program for Education in Georgia, as contemplated by provisions of this Act, shall be deemed to be the sum arrived at by adding the amount of funds, calculated in the manner provided for in this Act, needed by the local unit of administration for the following purposes.

- (1) Payment for providing special education programs to meet the special needs of children as provided for in Section 5.

Section 72. Coordination with Other State Agencies

The State Board of Education shall be empowered to form in conjunction with other State agencies certain coordinating boards as needed to ensure the provision of a comprehensive educational program for the students of Georgia.

The State Board of Education and the Georgia Board of Human Resources shall hereby establish a Coordinating Committee for Exceptional Individuals and Preschool Programs not later than July 1, 1974. The Committee shall meet at least once every quarter and consist of no less than three members from each of the departments operated under the two boards, including at least one individual at one of the top two levels of management.

II. PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

Reference: P.L. 94-142 (Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975), Paragraphs (12) and (13) of Subsection (a) of Section 613, P.L. 93-380 (Education Amendments of 1974), State Plan Provisions (Assistance to States for Education of Handicapped Children) and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, Amendment to P.L. 93-380 (Buckley Amendments)

A. General Provisions

1. Communications to Parents

Each school system shall insure that all communications made to parents be in both English and the primary language of the home, if such primary language is other than English. Such communications shall be made, to the extent possible, in simple and commonly understood words.

Where the parents are unable to read in any language, all efforts shall be made to communicate orally.

All possible means of communication may be utilized in securing consent (e.g., oral, regular mail) and only as a last resort will certified mail be used to obtain consent.

2. Testing – Limitations

Each school system shall insure that whenever testing of a child is required or permitted by these regulations, the results of ability, aptitude or achievement tests shall not be used exclusively or principally as the basis for any finding or conclusion.

Individual psychological examinations shall be administered and interpreted only by an approved examiner. (See School Psychology Services Handbook.)

3. Procedures and Forms

All notices to parents required of school systems shall contain information in accordance with federal and state regulations.

4. Rights to be Accompanied

Where a meeting or conference with parents is required or permitted by these regulations, the parents and the school system may choose to be represented or accompanied by a third party.

5. A child (age zero to 21) may be referred for evaluation by any of the following.

- a. A school official, including, without limitations, a teacher
- b. A parent or guardian
- c. A judicial officer
- d. A social worker
- e. A physician

- f. The child, if age 18 or over, or under 18 and enrolled full time in an institution of post-secondary education. (After the child has reached age 18, all procedural due process rights contained within these regulations shall automatically be transferred to the student unless he is declared legally incompetent.)
- g. Any other person may request one of the above to make a referral. The person who receives such a request may, at his or her discretion, refer the child for an evaluation.

6. Notice

In the event a child is applying for initial admission into a school and the school fails to provide a free public education for that child, the parent should be notified.

B. Due Process

1. Evaluation

a. Initial Evaluation

All children, unless otherwise specified within Section IV, who are considered for special education services shall have a comprehensive evaluation of their abilities and handicaps.

All children referred for special education evaluation shall be screened for possible hearing and vision difficulties prior to educational or psychological evaluations (effective July 1, 1977). Refer to page 27 for Visually Impaired and page 35 for Audiology. Those children considered for special education services in which intellectual, behavioral or emotional components may be determining factors in educational placement must have an individual psychological examination, unless otherwise specified, in addition to other assessments to determine their abilities and handicaps. The psychological evaluation would include an evaluation of cultural, language and adaptive factors.

b. Re-evaluation

All children enrolled in special education programs shall be comprehensively re-evaluated educationally or psychologically no later than three years after the last previous evaluation. The re-evaluation may take place within the three years upon the request of any person having the original authority to make an initial referral, with the approval of the placement committee.

Educational assessment shall be made on an annual basis.

c. Signed Parental Consent

The local school system must have signed, informed parental consent on file before any child is singled out for any evaluation other than routine operations happening to all children at some point in their school year (e.g., mass vision, dental, hearing and speech screening unless parent has previously filed a form of protest). After a child is referred for evaluation, the local school system shall send to the parents of such a child a notice containing the following.

- (1) A statement that a referral has been made, including the name and position of the person making such referral. (The principal of the child's school shall assure that the parents have been notified of referral prior to this notice.)
- (2) A statement describing the evaluation process.
- (3) A statement that the parents will be informed of the place and date when the evaluation will begin, and the willingness of the appropriate school official to meet with the parents to discuss the reasons for referral and the nature of the evaluation.
- (4) A statement that the parents will be informed within a reasonable period, but not to exceed 30 school days, of the results of the evaluation after its completion and of the right to challenge the results of the evaluation by presenting an independent evaluation by an approved examiner.

- (5) A statement that the parents may be present at all placement committee meetings where the educational placement will be determined and that such meetings will be held at a preannounced time.
- (6) A statement indicating that the parents may agree to the evaluation of their child or may refuse such an evaluation. The parent's decision must be clearly indicated on the form, signed by the parent and placed on file in the local school system.
- (7) A statement indicating that, in the event no response is received within 15 school days, an appropriate school official will contact the home to determine the reason for lack of response or the necessity of assigning a surrogate parent.
- (8) A statement that no change will be made in the student's educational program until proper notification is given to parents and due process procedures are fulfilled.
- (9) A statement that either party may appeal to the local and State Hearing Review Boards within 15 days of the parents' signed response, or lack of response, to the Parental Consent for Evaluation Form.

See Appendix A for model Parental Consent for Evaluation Form. This form contains all of the procedures listed above and which are necessary to insure procedural due process.

2. Initial Placement

No student shall be placed in a special education program until that student is the subject of a meeting of the Special Education Placement Committee which shall review all pertinent information and determine the appropriate program for that child.

The determination to place any child into a special education program shall not be made exclusively or principally upon results of tests administered during evaluation. All pertinent data on each child should be reviewed by the entire committee, including, but not limited to, the following.

- a. Appropriate school age; that is, zero to 21.
- b. Observation data from the referring party and student records.
- c. Where applicable, a current, thorough, individual educational evaluation, including a comprehensive assessment of achievement, visual-motor and perception skills.
- d. A case history, with pertinent developmental and social data gathered from the parents.
- e. Where applicable, an individual psychological examination by an approved examiner.
- f. Any additional data as requested by the placement committee.

Exceptions or additions to these data are specified under each program area.

a. Special Education Placement Committee – Re-evaluation

Upon the request of any person having the original authority to make an initial referral, but no later than three years after the last placement decision, all children who are enrolled in special education programs shall be the subject of a meeting of the Special Education Placement Committee which will review all pertinent information and determine the appropriate program for such children based upon the new information.

Any time a change in educational placement is contemplated, the pertinent information must be reviewed and the change approved by the placement committee and the child's parents.

b. Signed Parental Consent

All children who are evaluated for possible special education services shall be subject to review by the placement committee. All children who are recommended by the placement committee to be placed in a special education program shall have signed, informed parental consent on file within the school system before placement can occur.

Preferably five school days after a child has been recommended for placement, but no later than 15 school days, the local school system shall send to the parents of such a child a notice containing the following.

- (1) A statement of the specific proposed placement with a description of the educational components or curriculum opportunities available within that program.
- (2) A statement that the placement committee minutes, school files, records and reports pertaining to the child will be available for inspection and for copying at reasonable costs.
- (3) A statement of the reasons for the proposed action, including specific tests or reports upon which the proposed action is based.
- (4) A statement of willingness of appropriate school officials to meet with the parents to discuss the reasons for the recommended placement, the nature of the placement, and to resolve differences of opinion.
- (5) A statement that the burden of proof regarding the placement recommendation lies with the school system.
- (6) A statement that the parents may obtain for their child an independent evaluation by a certified or licensed examiner.
- (7) A statement that no change will be made in the child's educational status until the proposed educational placement is accepted by both parties.
- (8) A statement indicating that the parents may accept or reject the placement recommendation. The parents' decision must be clearly indicated on the form, signed by the parent, and placed on file in the local school system.

- (9) A statement that either party may appeal the placement decision to the local and State Hearing Review Boards within 15 days of the parents' signed negative response, or lack of response, to the Parental Consent for Placement Form.
- (10) A statement indicating that, in the event no response is received within 15 school days, an appropriate school official will contact the home to determine the reason for lack of response or the necessity for assigning a surrogate parent.

Please see Appendix B for model Parental Consent for Placement Form. This form contains all of the procedures listed in this section and which are necessary to insure procedural due process.

3. Hearing Process

a. Local Hearing Review Board (See Appendix D)

(1) Purpose

A local Hearing Review Board shall be established in every local system for the purpose of impartially judging the initial admission, evaluation, placement decisions or confidentiality of the local Special Education Placement Committee.

Either the parents or local school system may file an appeal to the board when a conflict exists between the two parties.

(2) Membership

The review board shall consist of three members for any given hearing. The local school board shall designate the Special Hearing Review Board. The members of the Special Hearing Review Board shall be drawn from a minimum list of 10 eligible personnel maintained either by the local system itself or by a district agency designated by the local school system. The list should be on file in the local school system.

No member of the review board may participate in three consecutive hearings.

To be qualified as a member of the review board, a person shall not

- (a) have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing,
- (b) be previously familiar with the child or his parents,
- (c) be an employee of the education agency involved in the education or care of the child.

Overall membership of the review board shall reflect the cultural, ethnic or racial background of the child.

The following are suggested agencies from which the list could be compiled.

Family and Children Services
Mental Health
Vocational Rehabilitation
College/University
Advocacy Group

Personnel from other local school systems outside the immediate geographic region or district

(3) Procedures

Upon oral or written appeal to the chairman of the review board, a letter containing the following points shall be sent by certified mail to both parties.

- (a) A statement that the hearing must occur within 20 school days of the receipt of the official appeal.
- (b) A statement of the date, time and location the hearing will occur.
- (c) A statement that parents may inspect, at reasonable times, copies of all records pertaining to their child developed by the school system or by its agents or employees, including all tests or reports upon which the proposed placement action was based. (See Section E, Confidentiality)
- (d) A statement that parents may obtain for their child an independent medical, psychological or educational evaluation from an approved examiner. (See School Psychology Services Handbook)
- (e) A statement that either party may be represented at his/her own expense by counsel or other individuals at any stage of the hearing process.
- (f) A statement that the hearing will be closed to the public unless the parent requests, in writing to the Hearing Review Board, that the hearing be open to the public. However, in such an instance, the school system's attorney, appropriate staff members of the local board of education and other persons requested by either the school system or the parents and approved by the review board may be present.
- (g) A statement that both parties may present testimony or evidence to the review board and that both parties will have the opportunity to question witnesses.
- (h) A statement that either party may lawfully subpoena or compel the attendance of witnesses during the due process hearing.
- (i) A statement that all proceedings will be recorded on tape or by other appropriate means.
- (j) A statement that the burden of proof as to the appropriateness of any proposed action will be upon the local school system.

- (k) A statement that the Special Hearing Review Board has the authority to confirm or reject the decisions of all concerned parties.
- (l) A statement that the decision of the Special Hearing Review Board will be binding on all parties unless an appeal of the decision is made to the State Hearing Review Board.
- (m) A statement that at the conclusion of the hearing the Special Hearing Review Board shall report the decision to all concerned parties in writing within a reasonable period of time, but not to exceed 20 school days.
- (n) A statement that the written decision of the Special Hearing Review Board shall be based solely upon the evidence presented at the hearing and shall include a summary of the hearing and the reasons for the decisions.
- (o) A statement that the written findings or decisions of the Special Hearing Review Board are to be transmitted to the Advisory Panel.

If no request for an appeal is made by either party within 10 school days of the receipt of the board's written decision, the decision of the board will be implemented.

b. State Hearing Review Board

The State Board of Education shall serve as the review board or shall designate a review board for the purpose of impartially judging the decision of the local review board. The criteria outlined in Section 3a(2) for membership shall apply.

The decision of the State Hearing Review Board shall be binding on all parties unless an appeal to the appropriate court is filed.

4. Surrogate Parents

In order to provide every child eligible for a public education with the protection of procedural due process, even under circumstances where a child's parents or guardians are not known, are unavailable or the child is a ward of the State, each child should be assigned a surrogate parent. This would be the responsibility of the appropriate state agency; e.g., Department of Human Resources. A surrogate parent may not be an employee of the immediate unit involved in the education or care of the child.

C. Least Restrictive Environment

Least restrictive placement is the educational environment in which the child can function most effectively. In keeping with the procedural safeguards guaranteed to exceptional children and their parents by the Georgia Department of Education, the following regulations are set forth.

To the maximum extent appropriate, exceptional children in Georgia shall be educated with children who are not handicapped. Special classes, separate schooling or other removal of handicapped children from the regular class environment shall occur only when the nature or severity of the handicap is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be satisfactorily achieved. Further, it is the policy of the Georgia Department of Education that handicapped children have the right to be educated with their normal peers, unless clear evidence is available that partial or full removal is desirable for the welfare of the child or other children.

When an exceptional child must be assigned to a special program, educational goals shall be specified; and when these goals are met, the child shall be returned to the most normal setting possible, consistent with the child's capabilities and educational needs.

1. Program Alternatives

A variety of program alternatives (continuum of educational services) shall be available to every child in the school system to meet varying needs, including regular class attendance plus supplementary instructional services, part-time special program (resource room), full-time special class (self-contained class), special schools (TMR centers, psychoeducational centers, etc.), hospital and homebound instruction and residential placement. (See page 57, Appendix F, for further information.)

2. Procedures

- a. Parental consent for testing and changes in a child's educational program shall be obtained in accordance with the prescribed due process procedure.
- b. In making decisions about the educational placement of handicapped children, an interdisciplinary team and multi-factored evaluations shall be instituted in keeping with the non-discriminatory testing and placement procedure.
- c. Periodic review of the child's educational status shall be required in keeping with the non-discriminatory testing and placement procedure.
- d. An educational plan for the child shall be developed in keeping with the non-discriminatory testing and placement procedure.
- e. A formal appeal process concerning least restrictive alternatives program placement for handicapped children shall be in full effect in keeping with the due process procedure on appeals.

3. Implementation

The local school system shall assure that adequate provision is made for handicapped children whose educational needs must be met through interdistrict or regional programs. In carrying out such programs, however, the posture will be toward bringing the child back to a less restrictive program whenever possible.

D. Non-Discriminatory Testing and Placement

All components of the comprehensive evaluation shall include cultural, language and adaptive factors.

It is the responsibility of the school system to develop an appropriate educational plan for the child, based on a description of his strengths and weaknesses and giving full consideration to cultural, language and adaptive factors.

Future state plans shall reflect policies and procedures as interpreted by the Federal Government. These procedures will be disseminated as an addendum to the state regulations.

E. Confidentiality

1. Access Rights

- a. Each education agency shall permit parents to inspect and review as expeditiously as possible any personally identifiable data relating to their children which is collected, maintained or used by the agency. Upon request, parents may obtain copies of all data for a duplication fee; however, if they provide ample evidence of inability to pay such fee, the data will be provided free of charge. Access to such data, if requested, is the right of each parent and may not be denied by the agency due to physical limitations or geographical locations.
- b. An agency may presume that the parent has authority to inspect and review data relating to his or her child unless the agency has been advised that the parent does not have the authority under applicable State law governing such matters as guardianship, separation and divorce.
- c. Each education agency shall keep a record of parties obtaining access to data collected or maintained (except access by parents and authorized employees of the education agency), including the name of the party, the date access was given and the purpose for which the party is authorized to use the data.
- d. If any record includes data on more than one child, the parents of those children shall have the right to inspect and review only the data relating to their child or to be informed of that specific data.
- e. Upon request, each education agency shall provide parents a listing of the types and locations of data collected, maintained or used by the agency.

2. Hearing Rights

- a. A parent who believes that data collected or maintained is inaccurate or misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of the child, may request the education agency which maintains the records to make amendments to the data.
- b. The agency shall decide whether to amend the data in accordance with the request within a reasonable period of time of receipt of the request, but not to exceed 30 school days.
- c. If the agency decides to refuse to amend the data in accordance with the request, it shall in writing so inform the parent of the refusal, advise the parent of the right to a hearing and provide an opportunity for a hearing to challenge data. The hearing required to be held shall be conducted according to procedures as outlined in Procedural Safeguards, B. Due Process, 3. Hearing Process, hereof. These points should be contained in the letter.
- d. If, as a result of the hearing, the agency decides the data is not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the child, it shall inform the parents of their right to place in the records it maintains on the child a statement commenting on the data and setting forth their reasons for disagreeing with the decision of the agency.

- e. Any explanation placed in the records of the child shall be maintained by the agency as part of the records of the child as long as the record or contested portion thereof is maintained by the agency. If the records of the child, or the contested portion thereof, are disclosed by the agency to any party, the explanation shall also be disclosed to the party.
- f. Each education agency should insure that all hearing boards will maintain confidentiality.

3. Consent

Every effort shall be made to insure that (1) The parent has been fully informed of the information in his or her native language. (2) The parent understands and agrees in writing to the release of information and records and for what purpose and to whom such information and records shall be sent. (3) The parent understands that the granting of consent is voluntary on the part of the parent.

- a. Signed informed parental consent shall be obtained before disclosure of data to anyone or in any manner other than
 - (1) Parents or eligible students.
 - (2) School officials, including teachers within the local education agency or legally constituted cooperating agencies; e.g., SED centers, CESAs, shared services, when access has legitimate educational purposes.
 - (3) In connection with a student's application for or receipt of financial aid.
 - (4) With the written approval of the local superintendent, organizations conducting a study on behalf of an education agency to develop, validate or administer predictive tests; to administer student aid or to improve instruction, and when such information will be available only to those conducting the study, with all personally identifiable data destroyed at the conclusion of the study.
 - (5) Accreditation agencies.
 - (6) In compliance with a judicial order.
 - (7) Authorized state or federal representatives evaluating or auditing federally supported educational programs.
 - (8) The Office of Civil Rights.
 - (9) Officials of other schools or school systems in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, upon condition that the student's parents be notified of the transfer, receive a copy of the record if desired, and have an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of the record.

4. Safeguards

- a. The superintendent, or an official designated by the superintendent, of each education agency shall assume responsibility for assuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable data.

- b. All persons collecting or using personally identifiable data shall receive instruction regarding policies and procedures for use of data.
 - c. Each education agency shall maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the positions of those employees within the agency who may have access to personally identifiable data. This list should include teachers and administrators directly involved in the educational interest of the child and others as designated in writing by the principal under guidelines established by the local system.
 - d. Whenever educational records of a student are released, the local school
 - (1) Shall maintain a record of those who have had access to the educational records and for what purpose (except for teachers and administrators in the local school).
 - (2) Shall provide access to these records to parents or eligible students.
 - (3) Shall specify in writing that persons receiving such records shall not permit access by third parties without the written consent of the parent or eligible student.
 - e. Personally identifiable data utilized in making and maintaining placement in special education programs may be transferred to another school system or participating agency which the student plans to attend. The parent or eligible student shall be informed and, if desired, receive a copy of all information transmitted.
 - f. Requests for third party information; e.g., medical and psychological evaluations of private practitioners, should be directed to said third party.
5. Destruction of Data
- a. Within five years after the data is no longer needed to provide educational services for the child, all personally identifiable data; i.e., name of child, child's parents, family members, address of the child, social security number or other characteristics of the child, shall be destroyed as it is related to placement of the child in a special education program. This does not preclude that a permanent record consisting of a student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level and year completed may be maintained without time limitation.
 - b. Prior to destruction of data, reasonable efforts shall be made to notify parents of their right to be provided a copy of any data which has been obtained.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Provisions for Establishing a Program

1. Comprehensive Plan

By June 30, 1977, each local school system or group of systems shall submit a comprehensive plan to the Georgia Department of Education describing how it intends to meet the needs of all exceptional children in the system as mandated by the Adequate Program for Education in Georgia (APEG) Act. The comprehensive plan should conform to the format prepared by the Georgia Department of Education and contain the following kinds of information.

- a. Name, address and administrative head of the school system submitting the comprehensive plan.
- b. Assurances that the procedural safeguards outlined in Section II will be met and adhered to.
- c. Description of the programs in each area of exceptionality which the school system will be offering. For each program the comprehensive plan will provide information as to
 - (1) Rationale for providing the program,
 - (2) Population to be served,
 - (3) Delivery to be employed and anticipated number of children to be served by each model,
 - (4) Number and qualifications of all staff members providing service to the area,
 - (5) Description of facilities to be provided in each school or location where services are offered.
- d. Description of how children with needs for special programs not offered by the local system will be served.
- e. Description of the administrative structure within the school system providing leadership to all programs for exceptional children. This should include outlines of the lines of authority, as well as a listing of personnel such as the program director, supervisors, consultants, coordinators, principals of special schools or centers, etc.

Annual update of comprehensive plan will be required.

2. Special Education Advisory Committee

Each school system participating in the education of exceptional children should establish a committee to serve in an advisory capacity to the local board of education. This committee may be known as the local Special Education Advisory Committee. The committee's functions might be as follows.

- a. Assist in the review of state policies for the Special Education Program as they relate to the implementation of special education programs.
- b. Assist in the development of local policies which will insure procedural safeguards are provided as contained in Section II hereof.
- c. Assist in the review of the program and comprehensive plan in order to provide a continuum of service.
- d. Discuss transportation problems, requests for materials and equipment and any other problems concerning the class or unit.
- e. Assist in the development of the comprehensive plan and annual update.
 - (1) Meetings should be scheduled on the basis of need. It is recommended that a spring meeting be held to complete the annual update of comprehensive plans.
 - (2) Members may be chosen from, but not limited to, the following.
 - (a) The coordinator of the local special education program who will serve as chairperson.
 - (b) The coordinator (when applicable) of the CESA special education program.
 - (c) The local school superintendent or his designee
 - (d) The visiting teacher
 - (e) The curriculum director
 - (f) A principal
 - (g) A teacher of exceptional children
 - (h) A psychologist
 - (i) One or more parents of a child in a special education program
 - (j) A professional staff member of the local health department
 - (k) A professional staff member of the local department of family and children services
 - (l) A representative of the medical profession
 - (m) A representative of the ministerial profession
 - (n) A legislator
 - (o) A representative of an advocacy group
 - (p) A representative of the legal profession

(q) A representative of a teacher training institution

(3) The minutes should be held on file at the office of the local school system.

3. Special Education Placement Committee

a. Purpose and Functions

A Special Education Placement Committee (SEPC) shall be formed in each local school system. The primary function of the committee, without limitation, is to recommend special education services for individual students.

The determination to place any child into a special education program shall be made only after careful review of all data pertaining to the child, including referral party's specific reasons for referral and all specific criteria included in each program area.

In addition, the committee shall

- (1) Provide recommendations to the Special Education Advisory Committee as to the establishment of appropriate educational programs for every exceptional student;
- (2) Provide assurances to the local board that major goals of the child's educational program are outlined based upon the evaluative data;
- (3) Provide assurances to the local board that a planned program is outlined for each child and is on file in the school.

b. Membership

An appropriate placement committee should be chosen from, but not limited to, the following.

- (1) The school principal
- (2) The referring party
- (3) The child's regular education teacher
- (4) The person who performed the evaluation
- (5) The prospective special education teacher
- (6) The director or consultant of special education, who will act as chairperson
- (7) The system superintendent or his appointed designee
- (8) The social worker, visiting teacher, guidance counselor or school nurse.

c. Placement Committee Procedure

For the Special Education Placement Committee's action to have effect, the following shall occur.

- (1) A majority of the committee should be in attendance.
- (2) Three-fourths of that majority present should agree upon the proposed action.
- (3) The committee shall adhere to procedural due process requirements as contained in Section II.B.

According to the local school system's discretion, one committee or several may be formed to meet the functions and purposes as set forth in 2 and 3 above.

4. Individualized Education Program (Effective October 1, 1977)

An "individualized education program" for each handicapped child must be written within 30 days of initial placement and maintained by the LEA. The people to be included in writing this program are the teacher, the parents, the child when appropriate and/or other personnel qualified in special education. This program must include the following information.

- a. A statement of the present levels of educational performance of the child.
- b. A statement of annual goals, including short-term instructional objectives.
- c. A statement of the specific educational services to be provided and the extent to which such child will be able to participate in regular education programs.
- d. The projected date for initiation and anticipated duration of services.
- e. Appropriate objective criteria and evaluation procedures and schedules for determining, on at least an annual basis, whether the instructional objectives are being achieved.

5. Program Completion

It is recommended that special education students, upon completion of a planned secondary special education program, be awarded a diploma in the regular commencement exercises. These students should be considered a part of the graduating class and no distinction should be made in the ceremonies.

B. Delivery Models

A continuum of delivery systems shall be made available to children identified as exceptional. These shall include part-time, self-contained, combination, special day school, multi-system and residential programs.

Alternatives in the following Program Selections should be specified in each program area.

1. Categorical Resource Program

- a. Children with mild handicaps or disabilities or those who are gifted may be enrolled in a regular classroom in a designated school but also receive special instruction in a resource program.
- b. A resource program is further defined as one in which the children are enrolled in the regular program while receiving special education services for less than one half of the school day.
- c. The types of resource programs shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following.

(1) Resource Room

A designated classroom to which the children come for instruction. The resource room model assumes that the resource teacher and the regular education teacher cooperate in planning the student's total instructional program.

(2) Resource Teacher

The resource teacher works with the identified children or regular teacher within the actual regular classroom setting.

(3) Itinerant Program

An itinerant special education program provides instructional programs to children in more than one school. The itinerant program assists exceptional children and their regular teachers on a rotating schedule.

2. Interrelated Resource Program

- a. The term interrelated refers to a combination program in which a teacher works with children who are mildly specifically learning disabled, behaviorally disordered or educably mentally retarded. The child should meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the program areas.
- b. The case load should not exceed 24. Due process guidelines, including individual assessment, should be followed.
- c. The determination to place any child in a special education program shall not be made exclusively or principally upon results of tests administered during evaluation. All pertinent data on each child should be reviewed by the entire committee. Cognitive and adaptive behavior criteria shall be considered.

3. Crisis Intervention Program

- a. For some children, a behavior disorder may be temporary and transitory. These children may be given the needed assistance to resolve their problems while continuing to be enrolled in the regular education program. The teacher will give support and guidance to the classroom teacher and principal in dealing with student problems. Other responsibilities shall be working individually or with a group on academic subjects and behavior management, crisis intervention, counseling with parents, follow-up services and overall planning for the child.
- b. Because of the inherent nature of a crisis intervention program, there are no special eligibility or placement requirements necessary beyond the judgment of the teachers, the director/coordinator of special education and the principal.
- c. Attempts shall be made to notify parents during the school day, but contact shall be made within 24 hours of placement in the program.
- d. If the service extends more than three days, or on the second occurrence of a similar nature, procedural due process shall be initiated and completed within 20 school days.
- e. Parental permission shall be obtained for interim services as procedural due process is being followed. (See sample form, page 53).

4. Self-Contained Program

- a. Children who require a more structured program over a longer period of time may be enrolled in a self-contained program designed specifically for that exceptionality.
- b. A self-contained program for the moderately or severely handicapped is defined as one in which the children spend one half or more than one half of the instructional day within the program.
- c. The chronological age range of these children shall not exceed three years.

5. Modified Self-Contained Program

- a. A modified self-contained program for the mildly handicapped is defined as one in which the special education teacher integrates the students into parts of the regular class curriculum.
- b. The integration should be based on a reasonable expectation that the student will benefit academically, socially, emotionally or vocationally by such regular class participation.
- c. The special education teacher acts as a liaison person to help the handicapped student function comfortably within the regular classroom setting.

6. Special Day School Program

In instances when students cannot function in a regular school setting, special centers should be provided; e.g., TMR centers and multi-handicapped centers.

7. Multi-System Program

Special arrangements may be developed among systems using any of the above described models. The multi-system program will be particularly applicable to low prevalence exceptionalities such as multi-handicapped, trainable mentally retarded, hearing impaired or visually impaired.

8. Residential Program

Special programs for children with severe handicaps are operated in residential facilities under the auspices of the local school system in which that facility is located, or under special provisions approved by the State Board of Education. Because of the nature of the residential situation, special consideration may be given to variations from policies for programs in the public school system. A complete program of educating severely handicapped children in residential centers shall involve teachers and specialists.

C. Facilities, Equipment and Materials

Unless otherwise specified under program areas, the following guidelines should be followed.

- The school system shall provide a classroom of suitable size in a distraction-free area, as required by the type of program or services to be established, with appropriate furniture, materials, supplies, and equipment to meet the needs of the class or individual children to be served.

For a self-contained or diagnostic class, the standard size (750 sq. ft.) is suitable.

For a resource program, the room should be at least 350 square feet or larger, depending upon the number of children being served at any one time, the kind and amount of furniture and equipment required and the necessity for storage capabilities.

- For children with special physical needs, the classroom should be easily accessible to an outside entrance, the school cafeteria, library and office and should have its own restroom facilities, or they should be provided immediately adjacent to the special classroom. Such classes should be in schools which meet Standards for Public Schools of Georgia.
- Instructional space for exceptional children shall comply with the above State Standards. Adequate storage and shelving should be provided. It is strongly recommended that mobile or portable classrooms be utilized only when regular education classes are also housed within such classrooms.
- New construction, renovation and consolidation of facilities should be undertaken only with the approval of the School Plant unit, Georgia Department of Education.

D. Transportation

Transportation for handicapped children shall be provided in accordance with established policy.

Vehicles which are to be used to transport exceptional children should be appropriately modified as dictated by the specific needs of the children. This may include such equipment as power lifts, wheelchair fasteners, special seat belts, harnesses, etc.

Provision shall be made for adequate supervision of all exceptional children while they are being transported. This may entail the use of a teacher aide if the physical or mental problems of the children indicate a need for more supervision than can be provided by the driver.

IV. PROGRAM AREAS

A. Mental Retardation

1. Definition

Mental retardation refers to significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period. Significantly, subaverage refers to performance which is more than two standard deviations below the mean of the tests utilized.

2. Eligibility and Placement

a. Trainable Mentally Retarded

A trainable mentally retarded child will usually have an intellectual ability of approximately one third to one half that of the average child of a comparable chronological age. This child may be expected to benefit from a program designed to further his socio-economic usefulness in his home or sheltered environment or residential setting. The TMR individual has the potential for personal, social and emotional growth leading to productive living under supervision or within a sheltered environment.

For a child to be eligible for placement into a program for the trainable mentally retarded, his performance on the individually administered psychological examination shall lie more than three standard deviations below the mean on the tests utilized. Arbitrary restrictive criteria, including incontinence and immobility, shall not be required.

Additionally, a child should receive, within two months of placement, a medical examination. It is recommended that this be repeated biannually.

The determination to place any child into a special education program shall not be made exclusively or principally upon results of tests administered during evaluation. All pertinent data on each child should be reviewed by the entire committee. Cognitive and adaptive behavior criteria shall be considered.

b. Educable Mentally Retarded

The educable mentally retarded individual has the potential for personal, social and emotional growth leading to independent, productive living.

For a child to be eligible for placement into a program for the educable mentally retarded, his performance on the individually administered psychological examination shall range between two and three standard deviations below the mean of the tests utilized. Further, significant deficits in his adaptive behavior must be demonstrated.

The determination to place any child into a special education program shall not be made exclusively or principally upon results of tests administered during evaluation. All pertinent data on each child should be reviewed by the entire committee. Cognitive and adaptive behavior criteria shall be considered.

3. Enrollment

a. Trainable Mentally Retarded

The case load in instructional areas should not exceed 12.

b. Educable Mentally Retarded

The case load for the educable mentally retarded should not exceed –

Self-Contained

Primary	14	Junior High	18
Intermediate	16	Senior High	20

Resource and Modified Self-Contained	24
--------------------------------------	----

The time on supervised work-study sites for students enrolled in programs for secondary-age educable mentally retarded is counted as part of the instructional program. Students who have completed a prescribed program of in-school study may be placed on work-out experiences which constitute a maximum of a school day, provided the student attends a weekly or bi-weekly seminar conducted by his/her special education teacher or maintains daily attendance of one or more periods.

4. Facilities

a. Trainable Mentally Retarded

It is recommended that school systems utilize a single system, regional or district center method of providing adequate services for the trainable mentally retarded, depending upon the number of children to be served. In some cases, total population to be served will not warrant the provision of a center offering a sequential program for school age children, and for this reason systems are encouraged to share services across system lines.

A center consists of a centrally located building housing a staff of several professionally trained teachers and paraprofessionals to serve the needs of children identified as trainable mentally retarded. Centers should be located in the larger populated areas of the districts and should provide all the auxiliary services, including transportation, to train these children to become more useful citizens in their community. The center should provide areas for instruction in home-making, self-care, motor coordination, language development, pre-vocational skills and academics.

b. Educable Mentally Retarded

In addition to facilities outlined in Section III.C., provisions should be made for use of vocationally oriented classroom facilities on the junior and senior high levels.

B. Behavior Disorders

1. Definition

When defined in terms of school functioning, a child would be said to be behavior disordered if his behavior is so inappropriate or destructive to himself or others that it interferes with receiving all or part of his education in the regular classroom situation. The child's primary difficulty is emotional/behavioral and cannot be explained satisfactorily by any other handicapping condition.

2. Eligibility and Placement

Based upon appropriate 1) screening, 2) diagnostic information which may need to include a psychological evaluation, and 3) staffing, one or more of the following factors exhibited by the student may be regarded as reasons for referral to or placement in a behavior disorders program.

- a. Displayed maladaptive reactions toward peers and authority figures.
- b. Temporary or transitory disorders occasioned by crisis situations with the family
- c. Chronic acting out or withdrawal behaviors exhibited in the school setting
- d. History of school suspensions or expulsion
- e. Social maladjustment, as evidenced by adjudication through the courts, or other involvement with correctional agencies.

3. Enrollment

The following are recommended as maximum active case loads for behavior disorders

Self-Contained

Primary	8
Intermediate	10
Secondary	20
Resource	24
Itinerant	20

C. Specific Learning Disabilities

1. Definition

The term learning disability refers to one or more significant deficits in the essential learning processes involved in using spoken or written language. These may be manifested in disorders of listening, thinking, reading, writing, spelling or arithmetic. They do not include learning disabilities which are due primarily to visual, hearing or motor handicaps; to mental retardation, emotional disturbance or environmental disadvantages.

2. Eligibility and Placement

For a child to be eligible for placement into a program for specific learning disabilities,

- a. There is evidence resulting from the individual psychological evaluation that the child's general cognitive abilities are average or near average.
- b. Evidence must be exhibited of a significant disability in one or more of the following areas.
 - (1) Visual processing (perception, memory, association)
 - (2) Auditory processing (perception, memory, association)
 - (3) Language (receptive, expressive)
 - (4) Sensory integration

3. Enrollment

The following are recommended as maximum active case loads for a learning disabilities unit at any one time. Since students may move into or out of programs, however, the total number seen over an entire school year may possibly exceed these numbers.

Self-Contained:	10
Resource:	24
Itinerant (two or more schools):	20

D. Visually Impaired

1. Definition

Children to be served include those whose visual handicaps prevent successful functioning in a regular school program; children whose visual handicaps may result from congenital defects, eye diseases, severe refractive errors, injuries to the eye or poor coordination. They fall into the following basic categories.

a. Functionally Blind

A child who will be unable to use print as his reading medium is considered to be functionally blind. Instruction in braille and in use of recorded materials will be essential to this child's education.

b. Legally Blind

A legally blind child is one whose visual acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye after correction, or who has a limitation in the field of vision that subtends an angle of 20 degrees. He falls within the definition of blindness, although he may have some useful vision and may even read print.

c. Partially Sighted

A partially sighted child is one whose visual acuity falls within the range of 20/70 to 20/200 in the better eye after correction, or when the child cannot read 18 point print at any distance, on the basis of a current examination by an eye specialist.

Some children with a visual acuity better than 20/70 will need specialized help. The local director shall determine whether the visual loss constitutes an educational handicap. Request for inclusion of such a child in a unit for visually impaired children should be made to the Special Education Program, Georgia Department of Education.

2. Procedures

- a. A survey of the community should be made to determine the need for a program.
- b. Vision screening, with special emphasis on early childhood screening, shall be provided for all children referred for special services. A successful screening program requires the coordinated effort of the local education agency, ophthalmologists, optometrists, health department, social workers and interested trained volunteer agencies; i.e., PTAs, Lions Clubs, women's organizations, home economics trainees, etc. Training may be secured from the local and/or state health department and the Georgia Society for Prevention of Blindness.
- c. Failures from screening shall be referred to ophthalmologists and/or optometrists for correction and/or follow up.
- d. An eye examination report, completed and signed by the eye specialist examining the child, must be submitted for each visually handicapped child enrolled in the program.

3. Enrollment

a. Self-Contained

Preschool:	8
School-age:	12

b. Itinerant/Resource: 12

4. Facilities, Equipment, Materials

Appropriate housing shall be provided in a regular school building, as required by the type of program, with suitable furnishings and appropriate materials and equipment. Classroom size shall be determined on the basis of maximum number of children served and the type of activity at any given time.

a. Federal Quota Allocation

All children whose vision comes within the definition of blindness are registered by their school system through the Georgia Department of Education to be included in the Federal Quota Allocation for legally blind children. A credit allocation, based on a per capita allotment for children under instruction on the first Monday in January, is set up on the books of the American Printing House for the Blind. It is against these credit allocations that the Georgia Department of Education authorizes shipment of books and materials for the use of local schools in the education of visually impaired children.

b. Library for the Blind

All books and materials are circulated through the Library for the Blind, 1050 Murphy Ave., S. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30310. They are returned to this same address as soon as the school is through with them, for circulation to other visually impaired children.

c. Textbook Funds

Local textbook funds may be used for purchasing books and materials for visually impaired children.

d. Services

School personnel should register with all national agencies and organizations that provide materials and services to the visually handicapped. Lists of agencies may be obtained by writing the Consultant for Visually Handicapped, Special Education Program, Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

E. Hospital/Home Instruction

1. Definition

The child who has a medically diagnosed physical condition, which is non-communicable and restricts him to his home or a hospital for a period of time which will significantly interfere with his education (a minimum of 10 school days), is eligible for the services of an itinerant hospital/homebound instructor.

2. Eligibility and Placement

- a. In order for an individual to receive hospital or home instruction, a licensed physician must declare that the child is physically able to profit from education instruction. Children with other handicapping conditions must meet the medical eligibility requirements.

Teachers should maintain an average case load of eight. A minimum of 20 children should be seen per year.

- b. Students out of school because of a communicable disease, emotional problems, expulsion, suspension or uncomplicated cases of pregnancy are not eligible.
- c. Students are counted present each day if the student is seen a minimum of 3 hours per week.
- d. An adult shall be present in the home during the instructional period.
- e. The responsibility for children hospitalized in facilities where no educational program is available lies with the student's local education agency. The LEA should make appropriate arrangements with the system in which the facility is physically located.

3. Delivery Models

- a. Itinerant/Resource: Either at home or hospital
- b. Hospital: Placed full-time at hospital

4. Facilities, Equipment and Materials

Necessary instructional program information, equipment and supplies required for the education program for hospital/home instruction shall be provided specifically for use by the hospital/homebound instructional program. These materials may be provided from a central depository or from schools in which pupils are enrolled.

F. Speech Impaired

1. Definition

Speech and language services provide diagnostic (evaluative), therapeutic (habilitative) and consultative services for students handicapped by communication disorders. Communication disorders may be exhibited by one or more of the following: (1) a language disorder characterized in terms of comprehension and/or use of words and their meanings (semantics), grammatical patterns (syntax and morphology) and speech sounds (phonology); (2) a speech disorder characterized by difficulty in producing speech sounds (articulation), maintaining speech rhythm (stuttering) and controlling vocal production (voice) and (3) a speech or language disorder characterized by difficulty in receiving and understanding speech without auditory training, speechreading, speech and language remediation and/or a hearing aid.

2. Placement and Eligibility

Eligibility for speech and language services shall be determined on the basis of a comprehensive evaluation by a fully certified speech and language therapist. Placement of students shall be made in accordance with due process.

3. Continuum of Services

Local school systems shall develop and implement comprehensive speech and language programs, emphasizing a continuum of service levels for all students in need of such services. Specific provision shall be made for the following.

a. Direct Service

This component is designed for students identified as having speech and language disorders. The behavior of concern will be modified in a program of intervention provided by the therapist. Only children receiving direct services are considered active case load. Case load will vary according to the nature and severity of the communication handicaps of students served by the therapist. Levels of severity must be related to the student's overall operative potential.

Severe

Student cannot be understood by and/or understand most persons without great difficulty; significantly prevents student from using verbal expression as a communication avenue.

Case load: 20 (minimum of 9 contact hours per school month per student)

Moderate

Student can be understood by and/or understand most persons but has difficulty using verbal expression for effective communication.

Case load: 45 (minimum of 5 contact hours per school month per child)

Mild

Student can be understood by and/or understand anyone but has some deviation from normal speech and language which calls attention to itself.

Case load: 75 (minimum of 2-½ contact hours per school month per child)

b. Indirect Service

This component serves children identified as having communication deviations such as mild developmental articulation problems, language problems associated with cultural differences, functional voice deviations that are transitory in nature and mild hearing loss requiring minimal rehabilitation. The behavior of concern will be modified in a program of intervention by a person other than the therapist, with the therapist acting as consultant. Services may include in-service with school personnel and demonstration teaching in the classroom. A maximum of 10 hours per school month is recommended for indirect services.

c. Observation

This component is designed for children who are being considered for direct service. The behavior of concern is measured periodically by the therapist to determine if change has occurred without direct service.

d. Maintenance

Children eligible for this component will have previously received direct or indirect service. The behavior of concern will be periodically measured by the therapist to determine its stability.

Measurement is a component throughout all service levels. The therapist will record measurement data at regular intervals to be determined by the local system.

4. Delivery Models

While speech and language services will generally be provided on an itinerant or resource basis, provision shall be made for alternative delivery models as dictated by locally identified needs.

G. Physically and/or Multi-Handicapped

1. Definition

a. Physically Handicapped

These are children whose body functions or members are so impaired, from any cause, that they cannot be adequately or safely educated in regular classes of the public schools on a full-time basis without the provision of special education services.

Physically handicapped may refer to conditions such as

- (1) Muscular or neuromuscular handicaps which significantly limit the ability to move about, sit or manipulate the materials required for learning;
- (2) Skeletal deformities or abnormalities which affect ambulation, posture and body use necessary in school work;
- (3) Disabilities which result in reduced efficiency in school work because of temporary or chronic lack of strength, vitality or alertness.

b. Multi-Handicapped

Multi-handicapped may refer to children who have some physical or sensory handicap and one or more additional handicapping condition(s) which are educationally significant to the extent that they cannot respond to regular instructional techniques provided for students in other special education programs for the physically handicapped or mentally handicapped.

2. Eligibility and Placement

In addition to the information required in the general section, for a child to be determined eligible for placement in these special programs, he must have

- a. Current medical report from physician or physicians qualified to assess his physical problems, indicating a description of handicapping condition and any medical implications for instruction;
- b. Annual medical examination to determine changes in the physical condition of the child and medical implications reflecting appropriateness of continued special education service for that condition;
- c. Arbitrary restrictive criteria, including incontinence and immobility, shall not be applied.

3. Enrollment

Maximum case load is:	Self-Contained	10
	Resource/Itinerant	6

The case load number for itinerant may vary according to geographic distances covered and severity of handicaps of children served.

4. Facilities and Equipment

In addition to the requirements found in the section on general provisions, alterations to school plant facilities, such as the installation of ramps and handrails, are recommended. Architectural barriers that prevent the student from using the school facilities should be eliminated. One teacher aide per class is recommended.

H. Hearing Impaired

1. Definition

A hearing impaired child is one who exhibits a hearing loss which interferes with his acquisition or maintenance of auditory skills necessary for the development of speech and language.

This may include children who are hearing impaired due to congenital or acquired factors. The educational classification and class placement of hearing impaired children shall depend primarily on the child's communication ability which is determined in part by age of onset, severity of loss, type of loss, educational abilities and presence of other handicaps.

2. Eligibility and Placement

Otological and audiological evaluations shall be provided with initial referral. In addition to the information required in the general provisions, hearing impaired students shall have audiometric evaluations under the supervision of a certified/licensed audiologist and medical evaluations by licensed medical doctors. These evaluations should be updated every two years or as otherwise indicated.

3. Enrollment

Maximums should be reduced as dictated by the individual needs of students. Itinerant may include parent/infant services as hearing impaired may be served as early as identified.

Self-Contained	8	Itinerant	12
Resource	12	Preschool	6

4. Facilities

In addition to the information contained under general provisions, any classroom for hearing impaired students should be in a location away from undue noise and interruption. Amplification equipment shall be provided as necessary. It is recommended that the room be carpeted, draped or otherwise sound-treated and air conditioned.

I. Audiology

Audiology is a diagnostic/evaluative/support service which is available for all of the public school population. It is not one of the special education teacher/clinician categories for a single exceptionality.

1. Role of the Audiologist

The role of the audiologist shall consist of audiological needs assessment and development and maintenance of means of meeting these needs. These may include

- a. Providing for hearing conservation services, such as
 - (1) Screening (routine grade schedule, all newly entering students, previous failures, post-remarkable illness students, remedial classes, special education classes including students served by resource or itinerant teachers and teacher referrals);
 - (2) Screening prior to additional special services and evaluation shall include impedance audiometry and pure tone screening at 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz at 25 db level. This shall be done under the direct supervision of a certified and/or licensed audiologist. Direct supervision shall entail the development of a plan by a certified and/or licensed audiologist and approval by the local education agency.
 - (3) Follow-up evaluations and services (differential diagnostic and audiological evaluations, interpretations and recommendations to teachers; referrals to other agencies and specialists and monitoring of progress);
- b. Providing for habilitative and rehabilitative services (hearing aid orientation, evaluation of hearing aid functioning, evaluation of techniques of remediation and ongoing planning and maintenance of habilitative and rehabilitative services to students);
- c. Providing for maintenance of appropriate records and utilization of data to evaluate and revise program procedures and techniques. Records shall be kept confidential and released to other agencies only with written permission from parent or legal guardian;
- d. Providing consultative services (information to teachers and administrators, supervision or training of screeners, in-service training and demonstrations, parent counseling);
- e. Developing and maintaining liaison with agencies and communities which will provide services complementary to the educational audiology services;
- f. Participating as a member of placement committees consistent with procedures set forth in procedural due process.

2. Establishment of Staffing and Program Needs

- a. Each local education agency, either through its own facilities or through its Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA), should provide audiological services. A ratio of one public school audiologist per 20,000 ADM is recommended.

- b. The services shall be planned and maintained by individuals who hold current Georgia Department of Education certifications in audiology and who are full-time employees of the public schools.
- c. These audiologists may utilize services of part-time or nonemployees of the public schools, provided those employees work under the direction and supervision of the public school audiologist and meet at least one of the following criteria.
 - (1) Hold current State of Georgia license in audiology.
 - (2) Hold all current appropriate professional technical and business licensure in Georgia and show evidence of being a current authorized representative or affiliate of each manufacturer whose products they service.
- d. For the purposes of screening, trained volunteers may be utilized providing their work is supervised and interpreted by a certified public school audiologist.
- e. At least minimum equipment should be provided and housed in an adequate size and design suite or mobile unit which has been sound-treated. A list of equipment and specifications for audiological services will be provided by the Special Education Program, Georgia Department of Education.

J. Intellectually Gifted

1. Definition

Students are intellectually gifted if their potential cognitive powers, when developed, qualify them to become high-level innovators, evaluators, problem-solvers, leaders or perpetuators in the complex society in which they live. Cognitive powers as used in this definition signify the complete range of intellectual functions, sometimes referred to as intellect, intelligence or mental abilities. Included are psychological concepts such as thinking, abstract reasoning, problem-solving, creativity, verbal comprehension, numerical facility among others.

2. Eligibility and Placement

For a student to be eligible for placement in a special program he must have the potential to perform at a significantly higher level than the average student. Significantly higher level refers to performance which places a student at least 1 1/3 standard deviations above the mean of the mental ability tests administered. Placement must be decided by the local placement committee after careful review of a complete case study on the student, which includes data relative to student's cognitive abilities, special interest, psychological data, school achievement, emotional and social maturity, creative ability, and recommendation of teacher.

3. Delivery Models and Enrollment

In addition to the special class and resource room delivery models described in Section III.B of this document, gifted programs may be offered through the following special arrangements. These models should be coordinated by a certified teacher of the gifted.

For earning purposes for Section 5 units, the maximum case load for any model should not exceed 75.

a. Resource Room

See Section III.B for a definition of resource room program.

(1) The maximum case load for a resource teacher of the gifted is 60. At no time should the resource teacher work with more than 12-15 students in a resource room setting. The case load for the itinerant resource teacher may be lower in order to allow for travel.

(2) Students should spend the equivalent of one full school day each week with the resource teacher.

b. Cluster Grouping

The teacher of a cluster should participate in a basic in-service education program in the area of the gifted. Desirably, this person should be fully certified in the area of the gifted.

c. Extended Day Program

Regular classroom teachers and volunteers should participate in in-service training programs in the area of the gifted.

d. Independent Study

Teacher-sponsors or advisers for independent study programs should participate in a pre-service workshop prior to beginning a program.

e. Advanced Placement Courses*

The regular classroom teacher who teaches advanced placement classes should participate in in-service programs in the area of the gifted.

f. Special Seminar

A small group of students with common interests and concerns meets regularly, short or long-term, for the purposes of study, discussion and exchange of ideas.

g. Joint Enrollment Program

- (1) Students enrolled in such programs receive both high school and college credit. Such students should meet State regulations for attendance in the secondary school in order that ADA credit may be claimed by the local education agency.
- (2) Students may attend college full time and receive secondary school credit toward graduation for courses successfully completed. No ADA may be claimed by the local education agency for such students.
- (3) Local education agencies and colleges or universities participating in joint enrollment programs should have agreements and policies that govern the operation of the program.

*Refers to program available through College Entrance Examination Board.

V. SPECIAL PROGRAMS

A. Grant Program for the Trainable Mentally Retarded

Regulations and Procedures

1. Authorization

Georgia Code 32-609a (1974, 1975)

The State Board of Education shall have authority to provide for implementation of other educational programs not ordinarily coming within the prescribed curricula of the public schools, which may or may not require use by local units of additional specially qualified personnel and special equipment necessitating allotment of additional personnel and funds. The State Board is authorized to establish priorities, standards and criteria for implementation of such programs by the State Board, implement such programs locally in accordance with criteria and standards prescribed by the State Board. The State Board shall, upon implementation of such programs, establish a uniform basis for allotment of additional personnel and funds if such additional allotments are necessary for operation of such programs.

2. Appropriation

An appropriation will provide limited financial assistance to eligible trainable mentally retarded children attending residential facilities outside of Georgia. The grant will provide partial tuition and shall not exceed Georgia's projected per child expenditure for the current fiscal year.

3. Grant Requirements

Eligibility for support under this program is based upon the following criteria.

- a. The public school program available is not appropriate placement for the applicant.
- b. No public school program is provided by the system where the applicant resides.
- c. Grant funds are to be requested through an application to be provided by the Georgia Department of Education and will be forwarded to the private facility where the child resides.

B. Grant Program for the Multi-handicapped

Regulations and Procedures

1. Authorization

Georgia Code 32-609a (1974, 1975)

The State Board of Education shall have authority to provide for implementation of other educational programs not ordinarily coming within the prescribed curricula of the public schools, which may or may not require use by local units of additional specially qualified personnel and special equipment necessitating allotment of additional personnel and funds. The State Board is authorized to establish priorities, standards and criteria for implementation and operation of such programs as the board may, in its discretion, find necessary or desirable to implement on a statewide basis. Local units may, prior to implementation of such programs by the State Board, implement such programs locally in accordance with criteria and standards prescribed by the State Board. The State Board shall, upon implementation of such programs, establish a uniform basis for allotment of additional personnel and funds if such additional allotments are necessary for operation of such programs.

2. Application

Application may be made for any Georgia resident age zero through the age required to complete a secondary school program. Application may be made at any time to

Grant Program for the Multi-handicapped
Special Education Program
Georgia Department of Education
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Application must be renewed annually.

3. Eligibility

Eligibility for support under this program is based upon medical, educational and financial criteria.

a. Medical

Applications will be accepted for aid under this program according to the following definition.

DEFINITION: A multi-handicapped child is one who has two or more severe handicaps, at least one of which is sensory, that are identifiable as diagnoses (according to the Standard Nomenclature of Diseases and Operations) which prevent him from receiving an education in existing state-supported schools. (Example: deaf/blind, cerebral palsied/blind, cerebral palsied/deaf, etc.)

Appropriate medical and psychological examination reports not older than six months shall be submitted. Committee review will determine whether the basic medical criteria are met in each case. Evidence should be submitted to substantiate the fact that the multi-handicaps described in medical, psychological and educational reports are in fact barring the applicant from access to educational facilities of a local school or state-operated program.

b. Educational

Applicants must be acceptable by an appropriate school.

- a. Evidence must be submitted that adequate investigation has been made of available schools with a view to selecting the most economical.
- b. The applicant must be accepted for admission.
- c. The committee must approve the selection of the school as best meeting the medical and educational needs of the child.

c. Financial

Participation in this program will be determined by committee review of all applications on the basis of availability of state funds and the needs of the applicant.

Applicants must submit a confidential financial statement. Analysis of this statement will be used by the committee in determining the amount of assistance to be received. The amount of assistance will vary from a basic percentage to complete tuition, depending on the relative financial status of the applicant and funds available. Participation of the Grant Program for the Multi-handicapped in the financial support of each child may necessarily change from year to year.

4. Selection

Selection will be made by the steering committee of the Grant Program for Multi-handicapped Children. The steering committee will meet regularly to review all applications and make recommendations and selections. Approved applicants will be notified of selection after the annual meeting.

5. Participation of Schools

Schools selected by parents or guardians of the child shall meet the needs of the child and standards of supervising federal, state and local agencies.

Tuition aid will be paid to the school by the Georgia Department of Education. The school must provide the Special Education Program with a quarterly report of the child's progress. Tuition statements should be sent to the Grant Program for the Multi-handicapped, Special Education Program, Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

C. Psychoeducational Centers for the Severely Emotionally Disturbed

1. Definition of Children to be Served

All centers shall accept children ages three through 14 years. Infants from three months to three years shall be served by the center staff in well baby clinics, community service centers or in parents' homes.

The major admission requirement will be the presence of an emotional or behavioral disorder severe enough to require a special child treatment program or a special education program not available in the public school or the community. Children with secondary handicapping conditions such as mental retardation, learning disability, neurological disability, hearing loss or developmental delay will be accepted if the primary disability is a severe emotional or behavioral disorder. Children who have mild to moderate behavior or discipline problems are not eligible.

2. Eligibility and Placement

Based upon psychological or psychiatric evaluation and appropriate center staffing, one or more of the following characteristics exhibited by the children may be regarded as eligibility for placement.

- a. Severe emotional disturbance such as, but not limited to, childhood schizophrenia, autism, severe emotional deprivation and adjustment reactions;
- b. Severe behavioral disorders such as, but not limited to, neurological impairment, cultural deprivation and developmental lag;
- c. Severe school-related maladjustment such as, but not limited to, behavior, socialization communication and academic skills.

3. Regulations and Procedures

In compliance with a provision of the budget, item 624.44, Centers for Severely Emotionally Disturbed, the Georgia Department of Education shall receive funds appropriated by the Georgia General Assembly. The Office of Instructional Services, Division of Early Childhood and Special Education, Special Education Program, shall

- Develop rules, regulations and procedures pertaining to the operation of psycho-educational centers, subject to review and approval by the State Board of Education.
 - Review proposals for funding and make recommendations to the State Board of Education.
- a. Regulation

A contract shall be awarded to an approval fiscal agent for the operation of a center to serve severely emotionally disturbed or behaviorally disordered children ages zero through 14.

Procedure

- (1) The fiscal agent shall
 - (a) Serve as a fiscal agency for the receipt and disbursement of all grant and APEG Section 5 funds.
 - (b) Transfer upon receipt of all grant and APEG Section 5 funds including maintenance and operation, textbooks and consumable materials and sick leave to restricted center accounts.
 - (c) Maintain appropriate bookkeeping procedures to insure the expenditure of funds as indicated in the approved proposal. For information on procedures, the Georgia Accounting Handbook may be used.
 - (d) Provide appropriate information as required by the State Department of Education, Office of Instructional Services, Division of Early Childhood and Special Education, Special Education Program, including
 - (i) Monthly Reports of Services to Children and Parents.
 - (ii) Quarterly Documentation of Proposal Objectives.
 - (iii) Annual Report of Services to Children and Parents.
 - (iv) Documentation of Proposal Objectives.
 - (v) Quarterly Financial Report.
 - (vi) Annual Financial Report.*
- *By July 10 of the following Fiscal Year, provide the Georgia Department of Education, Fiscal Services Division, Cash Management Section, 119 State Office Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, an Annual Financial Report, a detailed list of encumbered items and a check for the remaining unexpended funds.
- (2) Three copies of each proposal must be submitted to the Georgia Department of Education, Office of Instructional Services, Atlanta, Georgia for review and approval.
- (3) Each proposal for funding must contain a letter of support and cooperation from each superintendent. It is recommended that the mental health chief(s) provide written support in the center service area.
- (4) Upon receipt and approval of a proposal for funding, a contract to operate a psychoeducational center will be awarded by the State Board of Education to a fiscal agent. This contract will indicate the amount of grant funds plus the number of APEG Section 5 units allotted.

5. Regulation

An Advisory Board shall be established, composed of all system superintendents or their representatives. District mental health chief(s) or their representative and representatives of other child service agencies within the center service area may serve as active or ex officio members of the board.

Procedure

- (1) The Advisory Board shall meet at least quarterly.
- (2) Responsibilities of the board shall include, but not be limited to
 - (a) Endorsement of proposal for funding, including service delivery model, staffing pattern, objectives and budget;
 - (b) Review of service delivery model and recommendations for program improvement;
 - (c) Review of Services to Children and Parents data quarterly.

(c) Regulation

Guidelines for the budget should be established to cover all areas of expenditures.

Procedure

- (1) Budgets will be determined annually according to appropriations and population to be served by centers.
- (2) Management of center budgets will be consistent with state fiscal policy.
- (3) Deviations of more than five percent in any Budget Series of the approved project budget must be approved by the fiscal agent and submitted to the Georgia Department of Education in writing for approval.

(d) Regulation

The procedures outlined below shall be operative in regard to personnel for centers.

Procedure

- (1) Minimum salary schedules should be established by either Georgia Department of Education certification requirements or Georgia Merit System rating in the area of job responsibility.
- (2) Personnel salaries cannot exceed those being paid local school system personnel with similar training, experience and position.
- (3) All Section 5 APEG units must be utilized for teacher-therapist positions to operate center classes four and one-half days each week with one-half day for consultation.

- (4) Any positions established which are not described in the approved proposal must be justified in writing and a complete job description attached.
- (5) Personnel receiving Section 5 APEG funds must meet the state requirements for all Section 5 APEG positions. Others must meet licensing requirements in their own respective professional area, i.e., psychiatrist, social worker or receive a merit system rating.

e. Regulation

The procedures outlined below shall be operative in regard to costs of operation and equipment.

Procedure

- (1) Travel expense reimbursement will be based on travel regulations for local school systems.
- (2) The following schedule indicates the maximum amount of travel reimbursement funds available to each project during the fiscal year.

Center Director or Coordinator (one per project)	\$2,000
Other Positions Directly Serving Children (no out-of-state travel permitted)	\$ 600

- (3) State funds may not be utilized to buy snacks for students.
- (4) Installation of equipment in a facility or on property not legally the property of a local educational agency is prohibited.

f. Regulation

The procedures outlined below shall be operative in regard to insurance for centers.

Procedure

- (1) Insurance coverage may be contracted for center contents.
- (2) Insurance coverage may be contracted for liability on pupil transportation vehicles unless already covered by pupil transportation grants.
- (3) Insurance coverage may be contracted for professional liability and/or accident and health when provided to all staff by the fiscal agent.

g. Regulation

The procedure outlined below shall be operative in regard to average daily attendance reporting for children attending a center.

Procedure

Any child served by the center can be counted for average daily attendance by the LEA in which that child spends more than one-half of the school day in regular school programs.

h. Regulation

The procedures outlined below shall be operative in regard to center operation.

Procedure

- (1) Each center will operate eight hours, 249 days each fiscal year.
- (2) Each center will operate, as a minimum, 2-hour classes, four and one-half days per week, 210 days each fiscal year.

D. Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS)

Local Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) centers shall provide basic teacher support services in the areas of information exchange, special instructional materials and media, staff development and diagnostic/prescriptive programs for children who manifest complex handicapping conditions and whose needs cannot be adequately met at the local level.

Each center shall operate within established state and federal parameters set forth in Regional contracts and under the direction of a local GLRS board. This board shall consist of the superintendents or their designees of each local school system within the GLRS service area. The GLRS board shall jointly determine fiscal, administrative and programmatic concerns in keeping with the state GLRS workscope.

VI. APPENDICES

SAMPLE FORM

Parental Consent for Evaluation

Date _____

Dear _____ :
(Parent or legal guardian)

Your child, _____, has been referred for psychological and/or educational evaluation by

_____	_____
(Name)	(Position)
_____	_____
_____	_____

Because of learning/behavioral problems, we believe that an assessment of your child's intellectual, emotional and academic status is needed in educational planning. The evaluator who works with your child may use tests of intellectual, emotional, perceptual and/or language function.

Should you desire to accompany your child to the evaluation and/or be informed of the specific time and date of the evaluation, you should contact _____ (school), _____ (psychologist), _____ (phone number) immediately.

Within 30 school days following the evaluation, you will be given the opportunity to discuss the results with the examiner.

No change will be made in your child's educational program until you are consulted. You will be given the opportunity to participate in all program committee meetings when the educational recommendations for your child are being developed. Such meetings will be held at a preannounced time to enable you to be present if you so desire.

In the event that no response is received from you within 15 school days, an appropriate school official will visit your home to determine the reason for lack of response.

Should you have any questions as to the reasons for the referral or the nature of the evaluation, you should call the school.

A local Hearing Review Board is available for the purpose of impartially judging the evaluation or placement decisions of the Special Education Placement Committee. Either you or the local school system may file an appeal to the board if a conflict exists.

Please return the attached form indicating your agreement or unwillingness to have your child evaluated.

APPENDIX A
(1 of 2)

SAMPLE FORM

Parental Consent for Evaluation

Please sign and return this form indicating whether or not you agree to have your child evaluated.
I have read or have had read to me the attached letter requesting permission to evaluate my child,

(Signature)

Check One Below

_____ I agree for the _____ School System to carry out psychological and/or educational evaluation of my child. (You will be notified as to time and place.)

_____ I do not agree for the following reasons. _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Date

SAMPLE FORM

Parental Consent for Placement

Dear _____:

On _____ the Special Education Placement Committee of your child's school met. As a result of this meeting, the following recommendations were made regarding _____ (name of child).

The Special Education Placement Committee recommended that your child receive help through the _____ (name of program) program located in _____ (school). Attached is a statement of the reasons for the proposed action, including specific tests or reports upon which the proposed action is based. Within 30 days of receipt of your consent for placement, an individual educational plan will be developed for your child. This plan will include levels of functioning, goals, objectives, methods and materials, regular program participation, initiation and deviation dates, and evaluation procedures. You may participate in the development of this plan by indicating your desire on the attached (or enclosed) parental consent form.

If there should be a question about this placement, you may request a conference or you may appeal this decision through established due process procedures. However, the burden of proof regarding the placement recommendation lies with the school system. In addition, an independent evaluation by a certified or licensed examiner may be obtained if you so desire.

The minutes of the Placement Committee are on file at the school and may be examined by you if you so desire.

In the event that no response is received from you within 15 school days, an appropriate school official will visit your home to determine the reason for lack of response.

The attached form should be completed and returned to your child's principal as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

(Special Education Coordinator)

Date: _____

SAMPLE FORM

Parental Consent for Placement

I have read or have had read to me the following statement.

This is to certify that I approve of _____ (Name) _____
participating in the _____ (Program) _____ at _____ (School) _____.

I understand that this placement has been considered and recommended by the Special Education Placement Committee and that it is believed to be the best educational placement at this time for my child.

_____ Yes, I do agree with this placement.

_____ No, I do not agree with this placement.

Reasons for non-agreement _____

_____ I would like a conference concerning my child's placement.

_____ Yes, I do wish to participate in the development of my child's individual education plan.

_____ No, I do not wish to participate in the development of my child's individual education plan.

Parents or guardians Date

Teacher Date

Principal Date

SAMPLE FORM

Parental Consent for Interim Placement
in a Crisis Intervention Program

Dear _____ :

As you have been informed _____ (Name) has been placed in a Crisis Intervention program on _____ (Date). The Special Education Placement Committee recommends that your child continue to receive _____ (Service) located in _____ (School) on an interim basis while referral procedures are being followed. He/She will participate in the program for _____ hours per day for a period not to exceed 20 school days.

The attached form should be completed and returned to your child's principal as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

(Special Education Coordinator)

(Date)

SAMPLE FORM

Parental Consent for Interim Placement

I have read or have had read to me the following statement.

This is to certify that I approve of _____ (Name) participating in the _____ (Program) at _____ (School)

I understand that this temporary placement has been considered and recommended by the Special Education Placement Committee and that it is believed to be the best educational placement at this time for my child.

_____ Yes, I do agree with this interim placement.

_____ No, I do not agree with this interim placement.

Reason for non-agreement _____

_____ I would like a conference concerning my child's placement.

Parents or guardians Date

Teacher Date

Principal Date

SAMPLE FORM

Notification of Local Hearing Review Board Meeting

Dear _____ :

Due to a written request by _____ (Name of Parent), a meeting has been scheduled by the _____ (Name of System) Special Hearing Review Board for the purpose of evaluating the appropriateness of the decision of the _____ (Name of System) Special Education Placement Committee concerning _____ (Name of Student) 's advised placement in a class for _____ (Area of Exceptionality)

The hearing will be conducted on _____ (Date), at _____ (Address) and begin at _____ (Time)

As the parent of _____ (Name of Student), you may inspect, at reasonable times, copies of all records pertaining to your child developed by the school system or by its agents or employees, including all tests or reports upon which the proposed placement action was based.

The Board will consider independent medical, psychological or educational evaluations by a certified or licensed examiner.

In addition, you may be represented at your own expense by counsel or other individuals at any stage of the hearing process.

The above hearing will be closed to the public unless you request, in writing to the Special Hearing Review Board, that the hearing be open to the public. However, in such an instance, the school system's attorney, appropriate staff members of the local board of education and other persons requested by either the school system or you and approved by the Review Board may be present.

Both parties may present testimony or evidence to the review board and both parties will have the opportunity to question witnesses. Either party may lawfully subpoena or compel the attendance of witnesses during the due process hearing. All proceedings will be recorded on tape or by other appropriate means. The burden of proof as to the appropriateness of any proposed action will be upon the local school system.

At the conclusion of the hearing the Special Hearing Review Board shall report the decision to all concerned parties in writing within a reasonable period of time, but not to exceed 20 school days. The written decision of the Special Hearing Review Board shall be based solely upon the evidence presented at the hearing and shall include a summary of the hearing and the reason for the decisions.

The written findings or decisions of the Special Hearing Review Board are to be transmitted to the Advisory Panel.

The Special Hearing Review Board has the authority to confirm or reject the recommended special education programs for your child.

The decision of the _____ (Name of System) Special Hearing Review Board will be binding on all parties unless an appeal of the decision is made to the State Hearing Review Board.

Sincerely,

(Chairman)

Date: _____

SAMPLE FORM

Authorization To Release Information

I hereby authorize

(Agency)

to release all available educational, psychological, immunization, screening and _____ (Other)
_____ information on my child, _____ (Name),
_____ (Birthdate)

to

(Agency)

I understand and agree to the above statement.

Signature

Date

(Authorization to be kept on file.)

DEFINITIONS

Special Education Advisory Committee – A standing or permanent committee composed of school and nonschool personnel which functions in an advisory capacity to the local superintendent and school board on matters pertaining to special education.

Special Education Placement Committee(s) – A committee or committees composed of various school personnel whose primary function is placement recommendations of children referred for special education services. There may be only one committee for an entire school system or various committees for a school or group of schools.

Age of Majority – Upon reaching the age of 18, or if under 18 and enrolled full time in an institution of post-secondary education, a student is no longer considered to be a minor and, therefore, possesses all the legal authority formerly held by the parents. The age of majority would not apply to any person who is declared legally incompetent. Further, in the event a minor is married before the age of 18, he is considered emancipated. Consequently, in the absence of any laws stipulating age 18, an emancipated youth has legal authority.

Parent – A natural mother or father, an adoptive mother or father, or a legally appointed guardian. The term "parent" also includes the child if he has reached the age of majority.

Surrogate – A person authorized to act in place of parents or guardians when a child's parents or guardians are not known, are unavailable, or the child is a ward of the State.

Instructional Day – The total amount of time required by an individual school system for instruction to any given age group. State minimums must be maintained.

Hearing Review Boards – A tribunal of persons assigned to preside at a due process hearing and whose function it is to assure that proper procedures are followed. The hearing review boards may be the local board of education or its designees or the State Board of Education or its designees.

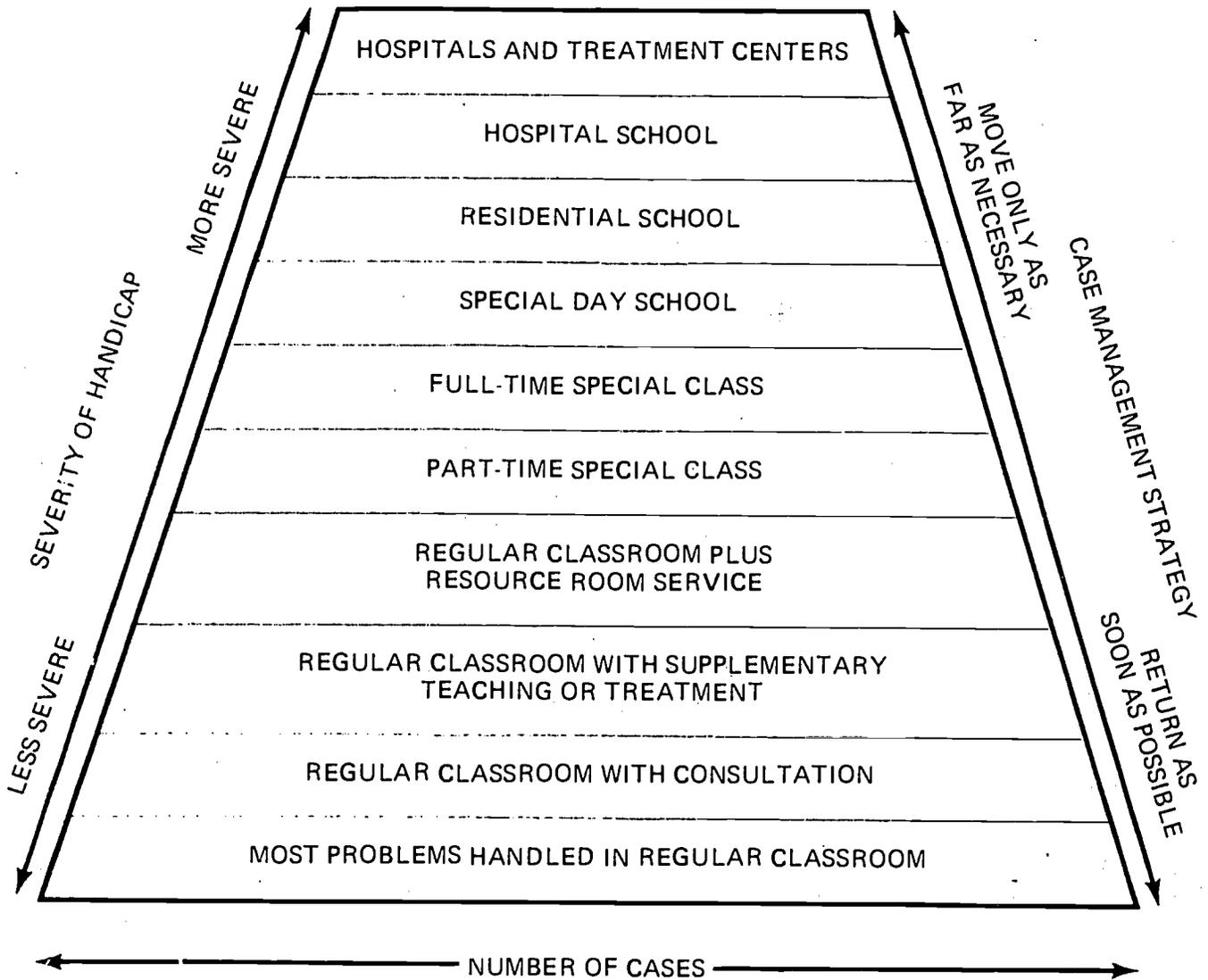
Least Restrictive Environment – The educational environment in which the child can function most effectively.

Advisory Panel – A panel, appointed by the Governor or any other official authorized under State law to make such appointments, composed of individuals involved in or concerned with the education of handicapped children, including handicapped individuals, teachers, parents or guardians of handicapped children, State and local education officials and administrators of programs for handicapped children, which (a) advises the State education agency of unmet needs within the State in the education of handicapped children, (b) comments publicly on any rules or regulations proposed for issuance by the State regarding the education of handicapped children and the procedures for distribution of funds under this part, and (c) assists the State in developing and reporting such data and evaluations as may assist the Commissioner in the performance of his responsibilities. The State Advisory Council for Instructional Services (SACIS) may serve as this panel.

Free Appropriate Public Education – Special education and related services which (a) have been provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge; (b) meet the standards of the State education agency; (c) include an appropriate preschool, elementary or secondary school education in the state involved and (d) are provided in conformity with the individualized education program.

APPENDIX F

CONCEPTUALIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR SERVING
HANDICAPPED CHILDREN*



*From M. C. Reynolds, A. Framework for Considering Some Issues in Special Education. Exceptional Children, 1962, 28, 368.