

## **Special Services**

### **SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is civil rights legislation enacted to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Under Section 504, a person is considered to have a disability if that person has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities. A referral, to determine the need for additional assistance and/or classroom modifications, may be made by a student's teacher, principal, parent, physician, outside agency, the student or any other concerned individual. Referrals may be initiated through the building principal or his/her designee.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The School District #111 provides a free and appropriate program of Special Education Services for exceptional children who are residents of the District and who are between the ages of 3 and 21. Parents or guardians as well as school personnel have the right to refer students for an evaluation to determine if they are eligible for special education services or placement.

### **REFERRAL PROCEDURES**

Kankakee School District #111 provides a free, appropriate public education to exceptional students in accordance with state and federal law. In order to receive special education services, a student must have a physical or mental disability. The disabilities as defined by federal law are autism, visual impairment, hearing impairment, mental retardation, orthopedic impairment, mental retardation, orthopedic impairment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech and language impairment, traumatic brain injury, developmental delays, multiple disabilities, deafness, deaf-blindness and other health impairments. The disability must adversely impact educational achievement and requires specially designed instruction.

If a student is experiencing academic or behavioral difficulties which impede his/her academic progress, a parent/guardian or school personnel may refer the child through the building principal to the Teacher Assistance Team (TAT). The function of this group is to provide academic or behavioral strategies/interventions to assist the student. The group will discuss the students' strengths and weaknesses to develop and implement an intervention plan. If at anytime a parent/guardian or school personnel suspect a disability they should refer the student to the buildings Pupil Personnel Service Team (PPS). The PPS Team will determine if a case study evaluation is warranted based on factors that include educational progress, interaction skills and functioning in the school environment. If the PPS Team determines that a case study is not warranted, the referring personnel will receive written notice that a case study will not be completed and the reasons why this disposition was determined.

If the PSS Team determines that a case study is warranted the team will conduct a Domain Review. The areas addressed in the review include health, hearing, vision, intelligence, social/emotional status, communication status, academic performance, and motor abilities. At the completion of the review of existing information, the team will determine what additional evaluation data is needed in each relevant area and from what sources that information should be gathered to determine if the child requires special education services. Consent from the parent/guardian for the assessments to be conducted will be obtained before the case study is initiated.