

**Minnesota** Department of  
**Education** River Bend Education District #6049 Total  
Special  
Education System (TSES)

This document serves as the Total Special Education System Plan for River Bend Education District in accordance with Minnesota Rule 3525.1100. This plan also includes an assurance for compliance with the federal requirements pertaining to districts' special education responsibilities found in United States Code, title 20, chapter 33, sections 1400 et seq., and Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, part 300. This document is a companion to the Application for Special Education Funds – Statement of Assurances (ED-01350-29).

Erin Toninato, River Bend Education District's special education director, is responsible for program development, coordination, and evaluation; in-service training; and general special education supervision and administration. Mrs. Toninato may be reached at 507-359-8700.

### **I. Child Study Procedures**

The district's identification system is developed according to the requirement of nondiscrimination as River Bend Education District does not discriminate in education on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability.

#### **A. Identification**

River Bend Education District has developed systems designed to identify pupils with disabilities beginning at birth, pupils with disabilities attending public and nonpublic schools, and pupils with disabilities who are of school age and are not attending any school.

Infant and toddler intervention services under United States Code, title 20, chapter 33, section 1431 et seq., and Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, part 303, are available in River Bend Education District to children from birth through two years of age who meet the outlined criteria.

The team determines that a child from birth through the age of two years is eligible for infant and toddler intervention services if:

- A. the child meets the criteria of one of the disability categories in United States Code, title 20, chapter 33, sections 1400, et. seq., as defined in Minnesota Rules; or
- B. the child meets one of the criteria for developmental delay in subitem (1) or the criteria in subitem (2);

- (1) the child has a diagnosed physical or mental condition or disorder that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay regardless of whether the child has a demonstrated need or delay; or
- (2) the child is experiencing a developmental delay that is demonstrated by a score of 1.5 standard deviations or more below the mean, as measured by the appropriate diagnostic measures and procedures, in one or more of the following areas:
  - (1) cognitive development;
  - (2) physical development, including vision and hearing;
  - (3) (c) communication development;
  - (4) (d) social or emotional development; and
  - (5) (e) adaptive development.

The team shall determine that a child from the age of three years through the age of six years is eligible for special education when:

- A. the child meets the criteria of one of the categorical disabilities in United States Code, title 20, chapter 33, sections 1400 et seq., as defined in Minnesota Rules; or
- B. the child meets one of the criteria for developmental delay in subitem (1) and the criteria in subitem (2). River Bend Education District has elected the option of implementing these criteria for developmental delay.
  1. The child:
    - (a) has a diagnosed physical or mental condition or disorder that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay; or
    - (b) has a delay in each of two or more of the areas of cognitive development; physical development, including vision and hearing; communication development; social or emotional development; and adaptive development, that is verified by an evaluation using one or more technically adequate, norm-referenced instruments. The instruments must be individually administered by appropriately trained professionals and the scores must be at least 1.5 standard deviations below the mean in each area.
  2. The child's need for special education is supported by:
    - (a) at least one documented, systematic observation in the child's routine setting by an appropriate professional or, if observation in the daily routine setting is not possible, the alternative setting must be justified;
    - (b) a developmental history; and
    - (c) at least one other evaluation procedure in each area of identified delay that is conducted on a different day than the medical or norm-referenced evaluation; which may

include criterion references instruments, language samples, or curriculum-based measures.

River Bend Education District's plan for identifying a child with a specific learning disability is consistent with Minnesota Rule 3525.1341. River Bend Education District uses the severe discrepancy criteria for identifying a child with a specific learning disability. River Bend Education District's plan for identifying a child with a specific learning disability is attached as [Appendix A, page15](#).

## **B. Evaluation**

The evaluation used to determine whether a child is eligible for infant and toddler intervention services must be conducted within the timelines established in Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, part 303. It must be based on informed clinical opinion; and must be multidisciplinary in nature, involving two or more disciplines or professions; and must be conducted by personnel trained to utilize appropriate methods and procedures. The evaluation must include:

- A. A review of the child's current records related to health status and medical history;
- B. an evaluation of the child's levels of cognitive, physical, communication, social or emotional, and adaptive developmental functioning;
- C. an assessment of the unique needs of the child in terms of each of the developmental areas in item B; and
- D. at least one documented, systematic observation in the child's daily routine setting by an appropriate professional or, if observation in the child's daily setting is not possible, the alternative setting must be justified.

The team shall conduct an evaluation for special education purposes within a reasonable time not to exceed 30 school days from the date the district receives parental permission to conduct the evaluation or the expiration of the 14-calendar day parental response time in cases other than initial evaluation, unless a conciliation conference or hearing is requested.

River Bend Education District conducts full and individual initial evaluation before the initial provision of special education and related services to a pupil. The initial evaluation shall consist of procedures to determine whether a child is a pupil with a disability that adversely affects the child's educational performance as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.02, who by reason thereof needs special education and related services, and to determine the educational needs of the pupil. The district proposing to conduct an initial evaluation to determine if the child qualifies as a pupil with a disability shall obtain an informed consent from the parent of the child before the evaluation is conducted. Parental consent for evaluation shall not be construed as consent for placement for receipt of special education and related services. The District will not override the written refusal of a parent to consent to an initial evaluation or re-evaluation.

Evaluations and reevaluations shall be conducted according to the following procedures:

- A. River Bend Education District shall provide notice to the parents of the pupil, according to Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, sections 300.500 to 300.505, that describes any evaluation procedures the district proposes to conduct.
- B. In conducting the evaluation, River Bend Education District shall:
  - (1) use a variety of evaluation tools and strategies to gather relevant functional and developmental information, including information provided by the parent, that are designed to assist in determining whether the child is a pupil with a disability and the content of the pupil's individualized education program, including information related to enabling the pupil to be involved in and profess in the general curriculum, or for preschool pupils, to participate in appropriate activities;
  - (2) not use any single procedure as the sole criterion for determining whether a child is a pupil with a disability or determining an appropriate education program for the pupil; and
  - (3) use technically sound instruments that are designed to assess the relative contribution of cognitive and behavioral factors, in addition to physical or developmental factors.
3. River Bend Education District ensures that:
  - (1) tests and other evaluation materials used to evaluate a child under this part are selected and administered so as not be discriminatory on a racial or cultural basis, and are provided and administered in the pupil's native language or other mode of communication, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so;
  - (2) materials and procedures used to evaluate a child with limited English proficiency are selected and administered to ensure that they measure the extent to which the child has a disability and needs special education and related services, rather than measure the child's English language skills;
  - (3) any standardized tests that are given to the child have been validated for the specific purpose for which they are used, are administered by trained and knowledgeable personnel, and are administered in accordance with any instructions provided by the producer of such tests;
  - (4) the child is evaluated in all areas of suspected disability, including, if appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status, and motor abilities;
  - (5) evaluation tools and strategies that provide relevant information that directly assists persons in determining the educational needs of the pupil are provided;
  - (6) if an evaluation is not conducted under standard conditions, a description of the extent to which it varied from standard conditions must be included in the evaluation report;
  - (7) tests and other evaluation materials include those tailored to evaluate specific areas of educational need and not merely those that are designed to provide a single general intelligence quotient;

- (8) tests are selected and administered so as best to ensure that if a test is administered to a child with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the test results accurately reflect the child's aptitude or achievement level or whatever other factors the test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the child's impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, unless those skills are the factors that the test purports to measure; and
  - (9) in evaluating each pupil with a disability, the evaluation is sufficiently comprehensive to identify all of the pupil's special education and related service needs, whether or not commonly linked to the disability category in which the pupil has been classified.
- A. Upon completion of administration of tests and other evaluation materials, the determination of whether the child is a pupil with a disability as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.02, shall be made by a team of qualified professionals and the parent of the pupil in accordance with item E, and a copy of the evaluation report and the documentation of determination of eligibility will be given to the parent.
  - B. In making a determination of eligibility under item D, a child shall not be determined to be a pupil with a disability if the determinant factor for such determination is lack of instruction in reading or math or limited English proficiency, and the child does not otherwise meet eligibility criteria under parts 3525.1325 to 3525.1351.
- A. As part of an initial evaluation, if appropriate, and as part of any reevaluation under this part, or a reinstatement under part 3525.3100, the IEP team and other qualified professionals, as appropriate, shall:
    - (1) review existing evaluation data on the pupil, including evaluations and information provided by the parents of the pupil, current classroom-based assessments and observations, and teacher and related services providers observation; and
    - (2) on the basis of the review, and input from the pupil's parents, identify what additional data, if any, are needed to determine whether the pupil has a particular category of disability, as described in Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.02, or, in case of a reevaluation of a pupil, whether the pupil continues to have such a disability, the present levels of performance and educational needs of the pupil, whether the pupil needs special education and related services, or in the case of a reevaluation of a pupil, whether the pupil continues to need special education and related services, and whether any additions or modifications to the special education and related services are needed to enable the pupil to meet the measurable annual goals set out in the individualized education program of the pupil and to participate, as appropriate, in the general curriculum.
  - B. The district shall administer such tests and other evaluation materials as may be needed to produce the data identified by the IEP team under item A, subitem (2).
  - C. Each district shall obtain informed parental consent, in accordance with subpart 1, prior to conducting any reevaluation of a pupil, except that such informed parental consent need not be obtained if the district can demonstrate that it had taken reasonable measures to obtain such consent and the pupil's parent has failed to respond.

- D. If the IEP team and other qualified professionals, as appropriate, determine that no additional data are needed to determine whether the pupil continues to be a pupil with a disability, the district shall notify the pupil's parents of that determination and the reasons for it, and the right of such parents to request an evaluation to determine whether the pupil continues to be a pupil with a disability, and shall not be required to conduct such an evaluation unless requested to by the pupil's parents.
- E. A district shall evaluate a pupil in accordance with this part before determining that the pupil is no longer a pupil with a disability.

When restrictive procedures are used twice in 30 days or when a pattern emerges and restrictive procedures are not included in a child's individualized education program or behavior intervention plan, the district must hold a meeting of the individualized education program team, conduct or review a functional behavioral analysis, review data, consider developing additional or revised positive behavioral interventions and supports, consider actions to reduce the use of restrictive procedures, and modify the individualized education program or behavior intervention plan as appropriate. At the meeting, the team must review any known medical or psychological limitations that contraindicate the use of a restrictive procedure, consider whether to prohibit that restrictive procedure, and document any prohibition in the individualized education program or behavior intervention plan.

Procedures for determining eligibility and placement.

- A. In interpreting the evaluation data for the purpose of determining if a child is a pupil with a disability under parts 3525.1325 to 3525.1351 and the educational needs of the child, the school district shall:
  - (1) draw upon information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, parent input, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior; and
  - (2) ensure that the information obtained from all of the sources is documented and carefully considered.
- B. If a determination is made that a child is a pupil with a disability who needs special education and related services, an IEP must be developed for the pupil according to part 3525.2810.

An evaluation report must be completed and delivered to the pupil's parents within the specified evaluation timeline. At a minimum, the evaluation report must include:

- A. summary of all evaluation results;
- B. documentation of whether the pupil has a particular category of disability or, in the case of a reevaluation, whether the pupil continues to have such a disability;
- C. the pupil's present levels of performance and educational needs that derive from the disability;

- D. whether the child needs special education and related services or, in the case of a reevaluation, whether the pupil continues to need special education and related services; and
- E. whether any additions or modifications to the special education and related services are needed to enable the pupil to meet the measurable annual goals set out in the pupil's IEP and to participate, as appropriate, in the general curriculum.
- F. River Bend Education District's plan for receiving referrals from parents, physicians, private and public programs, and health and human services agencies is attached as [Appendix B, page 17](#).

## **II. Method of Providing the Special Education Services for the Identified Pupils**

River Bend Education District provides a full range of educational service alternatives. All students with disabilities are provided the special instruction and services which are appropriate to their needs. The following is representative of River Bend Education District's method of providing the special education services for the identified pupils, sites available at which service may occur, and instruction and related services available.

Appropriate program alternatives to meet the special education needs, goals, and objectives of a pupil are determined on an individual basis. Choice of specific program alternatives are based on the pupil's current levels of performance, pupil special education needs, goals, and objectives, and must be written in the IEP. Program alternatives are comprised of the type of services provided, the setting in which services occur, and the amount of time and frequency in which special education services occur. A pupil may receive special education services in more than one alternative based on the IEP or IFSP.

### **A. Method of providing the special education services for the identified pupils:**

- (1) One on one services
- (2) Direct services
- (3) Small group instruction
- (4) Co-Teaching
- (5) Indirect services

### **B. Alternative sites available at which services may occur:**

- (1) Team Program, Therapy Based Level 4, 1315 South Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073  
(building name, type and address)
- (2) IMPRINTS, Level 4 Emotional and Behavioral, 1315 South Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073  
(building name, type and address)

- (3) River Bend ALC, 1315 South Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073  
(building name, type and address)
- (4) Early Childhood Special Education, Birth to 3 – provided in student’s home or daycare facility
- (5) Early Childhood Special Education, Age 3-5 – provided within the school  
(building name, type and address)

C. Available instruction and related services:

- (1) Occupational Therapy
- (2) Physical Therapy
- (3) Speech and Language
- (4) Developmental Adaptive Physical Education
- (5) Deaf Hard of Hearing Services
- (6) Autism Resource Specialist
- (7) OHD/PI Consultant

**III. Administration and Management Plan.**

River Bend Education District utilizes the following administration and management plan to assure effective and efficient results of child study procedures and method of providing special education services for the identified pupils:

A. Due Process assurances available to parents: River Bend Education District has appropriate and proper due process procedures in place to assure effective and efficient results of child study procedures and method of providing special education services for the identified pupils, including alternative dispute resolution and due process hearings. A description of these processes are as follows:

- (1) Prior written notice to a) inform the parent that except for the initial placement of a child in special education, the school district will proceed with its proposal for the child’s placement or for providing special education services unless the child’s parent notifies the district of an objection within 14 days of when the district sends the prior written notice to the parent; and b) state that a parent who objects to a proposal or refusal in the prior written notice may request a conciliation conference or another alternative dispute resolution procedure.
- (2) River Bend Education District will not proceed with the initial evaluation of a child, the initial placement of a child in a special education program, or the initial provision of special education services for a child without the prior written consent of the child’s parent. A district may not override the written refusal of a parent to consent to an initial evaluation or reevaluation.

- (3) A parent, after consulting with health care, education, or other professional providers, may agree or disagree to provide the parent's child with sympathomimetic medications unless medical, dental, mental and other health services are necessary, in the professional's judgment, that the risk to the minor's life or health is of such a nature that treatment should be given without delay and the requirement of consent would result in delay or denial of treatment.
- (4) Parties are encouraged to resolve disputes over the identification, evaluation, educational placement, manifestation determination, interim alternative educational placement, or the provision of a free appropriate public education to a child with a disability through conciliation, mediation, facilitated team meetings, or other alternative process. All dispute resolution options are voluntary on the part of the parent and must not be used to deny or delay the right to a due process hearing. All dispute resolution processes are provided at no cost to the parent.
- (5) Conciliation Conference: a parent has the opportunity to meet with appropriate district staff in at least one conciliation conference if the parent objects to any proposal of which the parent receives prior written notice. River Bend Education District holds a conciliation conference within ten calendar days from the date the district receives a parent's objection to a proposal or refusal in the prior written notice. All discussions held during a conciliation conference are confidential and are not admissible in a due process hearing. Within five school days after the final conciliation conference, the district must prepare and provide to the parent a conciliation conference memorandum that describes the district's final proposed offer of service. This memorandum is admissible in evidence in any subsequent proceeding.
- (6) In addition to offering at least one conciliation conference, River Bend Education District informs parents of other dispute resolution processes, including at least medication and facilitated team meetings. The fact that an alternative dispute resolution process was used is admissible in evidence at any subsequent proceeding. State-provided mediators and team meeting facilitators shall not be subpoenaed to testify at a due process hearing or civil action under special education law nor are any records of mediators or state-provided team meeting facilitators accessible to the parties.
- (7) Descriptions of the mediation process, facilitated team meetings, state complaint, and impartial due process hearings may be found in River Bend Education District's Procedure Safeguard Notice, attached as [Appendix C, page 22](#).

#### **IV. Operating Procedures of Interagency Committees**

##### **A. Community Transition Interagency Committee:**

- (1) River Bend Education District's Community Transition Interagency Committee is [individually established/or established in cooperation with other districts/special education cooperative] in cooperation with the county or counties in which the district is located, for youth with disabilities, beginning at grade 9 or age equivalent, and their families.

(2) River Bend Education District's Community Transition Interagency Committee consists of the following individuals:

Marilyn Weber	Academic Support Center, SCC
Claudia Johnson	Arc SW, Mankato Office
Melinda Emery	Blue Earth County
Kathy Johnson	ISD 77/Central
Robert Lindgren	ISD 77/EHS
Heather Sellner	ISD 77/WHS
Jim McCullum	JWP
Carol Goebel	LCWM HS
Mandy Hunecke	LEEP (Leisure Education for Exceptional People)
Ted Ornas	Lifeworks
Jolene Balzotti	Lutheran Social Services
John Klaber	Mankato Area Public Schools
Kris Madsen	Maple River
Ann Langworthy	Maple River High School
Debi Larson	Maple River High School
Leah Frank	Maple River High School
Dalaine Remes	MN Disability Law Center
Amy Gorka	MRCI Work Source
Bach Connie	MVAC
Kelsey Hutchins	MVED
Jeff Portugue	MVED St. Peter
Julie Soper	NAMI-Mankato
Robin Eder	NRHEG
Julia Henry	Parent
Sandra Noy	Parent
Peter and Marianne Johnson	Parents
Laura Benesch	Riverbend Academy
Holle Spessard	River Bend Educational District
Jacki Madden	St. Peter Middle/High School
Kelly Jensen	St. Peter Middle/High School
Maureen Toonkel	Services for the Blind
Bonnie Jacobsen	SMILES
Glenn Morris	So. Central Service Co-op
Linda Watson	So. Central Service Co-op
Kent Harrison	St. Clair HS
Wilbur Frink	The Arc SW
Christine Bauman	VRS

Deanna Steffensmeier                      VRS  
Jay Hancock                                      VRS

- (3) The chair of the Community Transition Interagency Committee is Heather Sellner.
- (4) The Community Transition Interagency Committee meets bi-annually as a large group and an events committee that meets monthly.
- (5) The Community Transition Interagency Committee's operating procedures are attached as [Appendix D, page 61](#), and include the following:
  - a) identification of current services, programs, and funding sources provided within the community for secondary and postsecondary aged youth with disabilities and their families;
  - b) facilitation of the development of multiagency teams to address present and future transition needs of individual students on their individualized education programs;
  - c) development of a community plan to include mission, goals, and objectives, and an implementation plan to assure that transition needs of individuals with disabilities are met;
  - d) recommendations of changes or improvements in the community system of transition services;
  - e) exchange of agency information such as appropriate data, effectiveness students, special projects, exemplary programs, and creative funding of programs; and
  - f) preparation of a yearly summary assessing the progress of transition services in the community including follow-up of individuals with disabilities who were provided transition services to determine post-school outcomes.
- (6) River Bend Education District disseminates the summary to all adult services agencies involved in the planning and the MDE by October 1 of each year. The most current summary is attached as [Appendix E, page 62](#).

**B. Interagency Early Intervention Committee**

- (1) River Bend Education District's Interagency Early Intervention Committee is established in cooperation with other districts/special education cooperatives in cooperation with the health and human service agencies located in the county or counties in which the district or cooperative is located, for children with disabilities under age five and their families.
- (2) River Bend Education District's Interagency Early Intervention Committee consists of the following individuals:
  - Health – Carmen Reckard, FM, Kelly Haeder- Blue Earth(alt.)
  - Education – Julie Ladwig, Waseca, Ruth Ann Rosenwinkel- Blue Earth(alt.)
  - County human services – Marilee Reck – Waseca, Joan Tesdahl – Nicollet (alt.)
  - County board – Dick Seeboth- Brown

- School board – Sara Hansen- Mankato Area Schools
- Early Childhood Family Education programs – Betty Uehling – New Ulm Public Schools
- Head Start – Pat Barkley- MVAC, Stephanie Hulscher- MVAC (alt.)
- Parents of young children with disabilities under age 12 - Lori Walser- Blue Earth County and other interested parents- Laurie Wille- Martin County
- Child Care Resource and Referral – Sara Stensrud- Region 9
- School Readiness programs – Laura Walser- Faribault County
- Current service providers –
  - Judy Mathiowetz – Brown County Public Health
  - Sally Dannenberg – Sibley/Brown/Watonwan/Education
  - Kim Sokoloski – Faribault/Martin/Human Services
  - Jenny Mueller – LeSueur/IFSP Facilitators
  - LuAnn Dumdie – Blue Earth County/IFSP Facilitators (Alt.)
  - Linda Hoechst – Sibley/Child Protection
  - Cindy McCabe – Nicollet/Child Protection (Alt.)
- May also include representatives from:
  - Private agencies
  - Public agencies
  - School nurses
  - Children’s Mental Health – Beth Leavitt- Counseling Services of Southern MN
  - Children’s Mental Health - Sara Younge (Alt.)- Counseling Services of So. MN

Additional Members Identified:

- Ex Officio Members:
  - Linda Wintz, Region 9 Centers of Excellence
  - Joan Lee, MDH Representative
  - Nadine Taylor, MDH Representative
  - State Staff as needed

(3) The chair of the Early Intervention Committee is Kim Sokoloski.

(4) The Early Intervention Committee meets quarterly.

(5) The Early Intervention Committee’s operating procedures are attached as [Appendix F, page 63](#), and include the following:

- a) development of public awareness systems designed to inform potential recipient families, especially parents with premature infants, or infants with other physical risk factors associated with learning or development complications, of available programs and services;
- b) reduction of families’ need for future services, and especially parents with premature infants, or infants with other physical risk factors associated with learning or development complications, implement interagency child find systems designed to actively seek out, identify, and refer infants and young children with, or at risk of, disabilities, including a child under the age of three who: (i) is

involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect or (ii) is identified as affected by illegal substance abuse, or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure;

- c) establishment and evaluation of the identification, referral, child and family assessment systems, procedural safeguard process, and community learning systems to recommend, where necessary, alterations and improvements;
- d) assurances of the development of individualized family service plans for all eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities from birth through age two, and their families, and individualized education programs and individual service plans when necessary to appropriately serve children with disabilities, age three and older, and their families and recommend assignment of financial responsibilities to the appropriate agencies;
- e) implementation of a process for assuring that services involve cooperating agencies at all steps leading to individualized programs;
- f) facilitation of the development of a transitional plan if a service provider is not recommended to continue to provide services;
- g) identification of the current services and funding being provided within the community for children with disabilities under age five and their families;
- h) development of a plan for the allocation and expenditure of additional state and federal early intervention funds under United States Code, title 20, section 1471 et seq. (Part C, Public Law 108-446) and United States Code, title 20, section 631, et seq. (Chapter I, Public Law 89-313) (this plan is attached as [Appendix G, page 69](#)); and
- i) development of a policy that is consistent with section 13.05, subdivision 9, and federal law to enable a member of an interagency early intervention committee to allow another member access to data classified as not public (this policy is attached at [Appendix H, page 70](#)).
- j) identification and assistance in removing state and federal barriers to local coordination of services provided to children with disabilities;
- k) identification of adequate, equitable, and flexible use of funding by local agencies for these services;
- l) implementation of policies that ensure a comprehensive and coordinated system of all state and local agency services, including multidisciplinary assessment practices, for children with disabilities ages three to 21;
- m) use of a standardized written plan for providing services to a child with disabilities developed under section 125A.023;
- n) access the coordinated dispute resolution system and incorporate the guidelines for coordinating services at the local level, consistent with section 125A.023;

- o) use the evaluation process to measure the success of the local interagency effort in improving the quality and coordination of services to children with disabilities ages three to 21 consistent with section 125A.023;
  - p) development of a transitional plan for children moving from the interagency early childhood intervention system under sections 125A.259 to 125A.48 into the interagency intervention service system under this section;
  - q) coordination of services and facilitation of payment for services from public and private institutions, agencies, and health plan companies; and
  - r) share needed information consistent with state and federal data practices requirements.
- (6) The Early Intervention Committee participates in needs assessment and program planning activities conducted by local social service, health and education agencies for young children with disabilities and their families.
- (7) The Early Intervention Committee reviews and comments on the early intervention service of this Total Special Education System Plan for River Bend Education District, the county social service plan, the section(s) of the community health services plan that addresses needs of and service activities targeted to children with special health care needs, the section on children with special needs in the county child care fund plan, sections in Head Start plans on coordinated planning and services for children with special needs, any relevant portions of early childhood education plans, such as early childhood family education or school readiness, or other applicable coordinated school and community plans for early childhood programs and services, and the section of the maternal and child health special project grants that address needs of and service activities targeted to children with chronic illness and disabilities.

#### **V. Interagency Agreements the District has Entered.**

River Bend Education District has entered in the following interagency agreements or joint powers board agreements for eligible children, ages 3 to 21, to establish agency responsibility that assures that coordinated interagency services are coordinated, provided, and paid for, and that payment is facilitated from public and private sources. See attached [Appendix I, page 107](#)

#### **VI. Special Education Advisory Council.**

In order to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in district policy making and decision making, District #4007 has a special education advisory council.

- A. District #6049's Special Education Advisory Council is established in cooperation with other districts who are members of the same special education cooperative.

(if applicable, parent of a nonpublic school student with a disability or employee of a nonpublic school if no parent is available to serve)

- B. District #6049's Special Education Advisory Council meets each April.
- C. The operational procedures of District #4007's Special Education Advisory Council are attached as [Appendix J, page 10](#).

#### VII. Assurances

Code of Federal Regulations, section 300.201: Consistency with State policies. River Bend Education District, in providing for the education of children with disabilities within its jurisdiction, has in effect policies, procedures, and programs that are consistent with the State policies and procedures established under sections 300.101 through 300.163, and sections 300.165 through 300.174. (Authority: 20 U.S.C. § 1413(a)(1)).

**Yes: Assurance given.**

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### **List of Appendix:**

#### **[Appendix A: 3525.1341 SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY.](#)**

Subpart 1. Definition. "Specific learning disability" means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.

The disorder is:

- A. manifested by interference with the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval, manipulation, or expression of information so that the child does not learn at an adequate rate for the child's age or to meet state-approved grade-level standards when provided with the usual developmental opportunities and instruction from a regular school environment; and
- B. demonstrated primarily in academic functioning, but may also affect other developmental, functional, and life adjustment skill areas; and may occur with, but cannot be primarily the result of: visual, hearing, or motor impairment; cognitive impairment; emotional disorders; or environmental, cultural, economic influences, limited English proficiency or a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math.

Subp. 2. Criteria. A child is eligible and in need of special education and related services for a specific learning disability when the child meets the criteria in items A, B, and C or in items A, B, and D. Information about each item must be sought from the parent and must be included as part of the evaluation data. The evaluation data must confirm that the effects of the child's disability occur in a variety of settings. The child must receive two interventions, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section [125A.56](#), prior to evaluation, unless the parent requests an evaluation or the IEP team waives this requirement because it determines the child's need for an evaluation is urgent.

A. The child does not achieve adequately in one or more of the following areas: oral expression, listening comprehension, written expression, basic reading skills, reading comprehension, reading fluency, mathematics calculation, or mathematical problem solving, in response to appropriate classroom instruction, and either:

(1) the child does not make adequate progress to meet age or state-approved grade-level standards in one or more of the areas listed above when using a process based on the child's response to scientific, research-based intervention (SRBI); or

(2) the child exhibits a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both, relative to age, state-approved grade-level standards, or intellectual development, that is determined by the group to be relevant to the identification of a specific learning disability.

The performance measures used to verify this finding must be representative of the child's curriculum or useful for developing instructional goals and objectives. Documentation is required to verify this finding. Such documentation includes evidence of low achievement from the following sources, when available: cumulative record reviews; class work samples; anecdotal teacher records; statewide and district wide assessments; formal, diagnostic, and informal tests; curriculum-based evaluation results; and results from targeted support programs in general education.

B. The child has a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes which includes an information processing condition that is manifested in a variety of settings by behaviors such as inadequate: acquisition of information; organization; planning and sequencing; working memory, including verbal, visual, or spatial; visual and auditory processing; speed of processing; verbal and nonverbal expression; transfer of information; and motor control for written tasks.

C. The child demonstrates a severe discrepancy between general intellectual ability and achievement in one or more of the following areas: oral expression, listening comprehension, written expression, basic reading skills, reading comprehension, reading fluency, mathematics calculation, or mathematical problem solving. The demonstration of a severe discrepancy shall not be based solely on the use of standardized tests. The group shall consider these standardized test results as only one component of the eligibility criteria. The instruments used to assess the child's general intellectual ability and achievement must be individually administered and interpreted by an appropriately licensed person using standardized procedures. For initial placement, the severe discrepancy must be equal to or greater than 1.75 standard deviations below the mean of the distribution of difference scores for the general population of individuals at the child's chronological age level.

Subp. 3. Determination of specific learning disability. In order to determine that the criteria for eligibility in subpart 2 are met, documentation must include:

A. an observation of the child in the child's learning environment, including the regular classroom setting, that documents the child's academic performance and behavior in the areas of difficulty. For a child of less than school age or out of school, a group member must observe the child in an environment appropriate to the child's age. In determining whether a child has a specific learning disability, the parents and the group of qualified professionals, as provided by Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, section 300.308, must:

(1) use information from an observation in routine classroom instruction and monitoring of the child's performance that was done before the child was referred for a special education

evaluation; or

(2) conduct an observation of academic performance in the regular classroom after the child has been referred for a special education evaluation and appropriate parental consent has been obtained; and

(3) document the relevant behavior, if any, noted during the observation and the relationship of that behavior to the child's academic functioning;

B. a statement of whether the child has a specific learning disability;

C. the group's basis for making the determination, including that:

(1) the child has a disorder, across multiple settings, that impacts one or more of the basic psychological processes described in subpart 1 documented by information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, parent input, and teacher recommendations, as well as information about the child's physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior; and

(2) the child's underachievement is not primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor impairment; developmental cognitive disabilities; emotional or behavioral disorders; environmental, cultural, or economic influences; limited English proficiency; or a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math, verified by:

(a) data that demonstrate that prior to, or as part of, the referral process, the child was provided appropriate instruction in regular education settings delivered by qualified personnel; and

(b) data-based documentation of repeated assessments of achievement at reasonable intervals, reflecting formal assessment of the child's progress during instruction, which was provided to the child's parents;

D. educationally relevant medical findings, if any;

E. whether the child meets the criteria in subpart 2, either items A, B, and C or items A, B, and D; and

F. if the child has participated in a process that assesses the child's response to SRBI, the instructional strategies used and the child-centered data collected, the documentation that the parents were notified about the state's policies regarding the amount and nature of child performance data that would be collected and the general education services that would be provided, strategies for increasing the child's rate of learning, and the parent's right to request a special education evaluation.

Subp. 4. Verification. Each group member must certify in writing whether the report reflects the member's conclusion. If it does not reflect the member's conclusion, the member must submit a separate statement presenting the member's conclusions.

### **Appendix B: Child Find/Student Identification**

"School districts shall develop systems designed to identify pupils with disabilities beginning at birth, pupils with disabilities attending public and nonpublic school, and pupils with disabilities who are of school age and are not attending any school. The district's identification system shall

be developed in accordance with the requirement of nondiscrimination and included in the district's total special education system plan." [M.R. 3525.0750]

Child Find Activities: Member districts/River Bend Education District shall conduct ongoing activities designed to identify students who may require special education. These activities shall include, but are not limited to:

a. Community Outreach: Member districts, in cooperation with River Bend, county Help Me Grow (HMG) and county Family Service Collaboratives, shall prepare and disseminate information regarding available services and referral procedures for students, ages birth through 21, who may be in need of special education. Each district shall insure that such information is available in the native language of its non-English speaking residents.

Dissemination may be made via public news releases (i.e., newspapers, radio, etc.), school bulletins, brochures, speaking engagements to parent and civic groups, etc. Records of news releases, speaking engagements and copies of disseminated information shall be maintained by the District and/or River Bend as appropriate (see Appendix A: Sample Annual Notices).

b. Coordination With Referring Agencies: District and River Bend personnel shall provide information regarding available services, referral procedures, forms, etc. to all community agencies, groups and individuals who have contact with students ages birth through 21.

Community agencies and groups shall include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Physicians, clinics and hospitals;
- 2) Public health agencies;
- 3) Public and private social service agencies;
- 4) Public and private schools;
- 5) Head Start, preschools, nurseries and day care facilities;
- 6) Mental health service agencies; and
- 7) Local chapters of parent and lay associations.

c. Review of Student Progress: All students shall have their progress reviewed to determine if they may be in need of special education. This shall include, but is not limited to:

- 1) A periodic review of student records, including the results of group testing, by classroom teachers; and
- 2) A review of the educational record and/or interview with the parent of each new student by the building principal (or designee).

Request for Assistance: When a student grades K-12 is having difficulty within the general education setting, a Request for Assistance form shall be completed. This form may be completed solely by the referring person(s), or by the referring person in conjunction with the building administrator or others, as appropriate. The completed form is then given to the building administrator (or designee) who shall place the Request on the agenda of a regularly scheduled Child Study Team meeting

Requests for Assistance for nonpublic students shall be directed to the nonpublic building principal. The nonpublic principal shall forward the Request to the appropriate district building administrator. Upon receipt of the Request, the district building administrator (or designee) shall place the Request on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled Child Study Team meeting.

Referrals for student's age's birth through six who have not entered the K-12 educational system shall be made by the appropriate county Help Me Grow (HMG) The county HMG shall serve as the Child Study Team for such referrals.

Note: The referring person(s) must contact the student's parent(s) and inform them that a Request for Assistance is being completed. This and all other Forms shall be placed in the student's record, parents have the right to review these documents upon request (refer to local district's records policy).

#### Pre-Referral Activities

Before a student is referred for a special education evaluation, the district must conduct and document at least two instructional strategies, alternatives, or interventions using a system of scientific, research-based instruction and intervention in academics or behavior, based on the pupil's needs, while the pupil is in the regular education classroom. The pupil's teacher must provide the documented results. A special education evaluation team may waive this requirement when they determine the pupil's need for the evaluation is urgent. This section may not be used to deny a pupil's right to a special education evaluation. [M.S. 125A.56]

K-12 Child Study Team: When general education resources are unable to resolve the presenting problem, the building administrator (or designee) shall schedule a Child Study Team (CST) meeting. The building administrator (or designee) is responsible for prioritizing cases to be presented to the Team, ensuring that the cumulative file, health record, etc. are made available to the CST and for establishing a workable agenda for the meetings. The CST shall consist of the following personnel:

- a. The building administrator (or designee);
- b. The student's teacher [When the student's teacher is unable to attend the Child Study Team meeting, the CST may appoint a member to interview the student's teacher(s), gather data and report back to the Team. This data would then be discussed at the next regularly scheduled CST meeting.
- c. Building level support personnel (i.e., counselor, nurse, special education staff, etc.), as appropriate;
- d. River Bend support personnel (psychologist, occupational therapist, etc.), as appropriate; and
- e. Others, as necessary.

The function of the Child Study Team is to:

- a. Behaviorally clarify the presenting problem
- b. Pull-together and consider existing information as it relates to the presenting problem;
- c. Gather additional information within the general education setting utilizing general education personnel and/or procedures; and
- d. Determine appropriate course(s) of action in attempting to resolve the presenting problem.

Three potential courses of action are available to the CST in attempting to resolve problems:

- a. General Education System's intervention;
- b. Pre-referral Interventions aimed at resolving the presenting problem within the general education setting and
- c. Referral for Evaluation

General Education System's Intervention: This option is selected by the Child Study Team in response to problems that are aspects of the general education system. Examples of general education system issues are:

- a. Referral for grade retention;
- b. Questions concerning general education policies and practices; and
- c. Non-special education parental concerns.

Although the CST may consult with school staff and/or parents or provide in-service training aimed at resolving the presenting problem(s), the formal referral process is halted, as the issue at hand does not involve special education.

Note: This policy should not be construed as prohibiting River Bend or other special education personnel from being actively involved in situations such as crisis intervention or assisting with referrals to community-based service providers.

Pre-referral Interventions: This option is selected by the Child Study Team in an attempt to assist the classroom teacher in resolving the presenting problem within the general education setting. These interventions shall be conducted prior to consideration for special education eligibility and shall be based on scientific, research-based instruction and intervention in academics and/or behavior. In developing pre-referral interventions, the Child Study Team shall:

- a. Review prior interventions conducted by the classroom teacher and/or others, noting the number, duration and appropriateness of the interventions
- b. Review data contained within the student's record, including results of group testing, health history/status etc.
- c. Review teacher logs, student work samples, etc.

The Child Study Team may elect to:

- a. Utilize district curriculum measures with local norms
- b. Interview and/or consult with the parent(s);
- c. Interview and/or consult with the student;
- d. Obtain teacher checklists; and/or
- e. Conduct an informal observation of the student.

Based upon data obtained through the above procedures, the Team in consultation with the classroom teacher (or parents, as appropriate) shall develop a plan of action designed to remediate the presenting problem. This plan is to be implemented by the teacher, parent(s) and/or other general education personnel as part of the general education program. Through the

consultation process, Team members and the teacher (or parent) collaboratively review, revise and evaluate the effects of the pre-referral intervention(s).

Note: Although the Child Study Team must be granted flexibility in creatively attempting to resolve problems within the general education setting, no student specific, individually administered evaluation instruments/procedures normally used to determine eligibility for special education shall be administered, nor shall the student be placed within a special education classroom on a 'trial' basis or for behavior management purposes, nor shall the student be provided individualized instruction by special education personnel as part of a pre-referral intervention.

Note: When a student who has been dismissed from all special education services is re-referred for special education services within twelve (12) calendar months of being dismissed, the requirement to document two pre-referral interventions is waived, assessments conducted within the prior twelve (12) calendar months may be considered current, and reevaluation criteria shall be utilized.

Problem Resolution: When pre-referral interventions have proven successful in remediating the presenting problem, formal involvement by the Child Study Team shall be terminated. However, changes resulting from interventions often need monitoring to ensure they are maintained across time and settings. During the monitoring phase, Child Study Team members may provide informal consultation to general education staff. Should the problem recur, additional assistance from the Child Study Team may be requested via completion of the Request for Assistance.

Referral for Non-Special Education Services: When pre-referral interventions have failed to resolve the presenting problem but the solution does not appear to involve special education, referral may be made for non-special education services. Sources of potential referrals include, but are not limited to:

- a. Referral to the school counselor;
- b. Referral for Title 1 services;
- c. Referral to community-based services (i.e., mental health, medical, social services, etc.); or
- d. Consideration for eligibility under Section 504.

[Appendix C: Procedural Safeguards for Part B and Part C](#)



**PART B NOTICE OF PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS  
PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL  
SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS**

The material contained in this document is intended to provide general information and guidance regarding special education rights and procedural safeguards afforded to parents of children age 3 through 21 under state and federal law. This document explains a selection of some of the rights and procedural safeguards provided to parents under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R Part 300, and applicable Minnesota laws and regulations; it is not a complete list or explanation of those rights. This notice is not a substitute for consulting with a licensed attorney regarding your specific legal situation. This document does not purport to include a complete rendition of applicable state and federal law, and the law may have changed since this document was issued.

**INTRODUCTION**

This document provides an overview of parental special education rights, sometimes called procedural safeguards. These same procedural safeguards are also available for students with disabilities who have reached the age of 18.

This Notice of Procedural Safeguards must be given to you at least one time per year. 34 C.F.R. § 300.504(a). It must also be given to you:

1. The first time your child is referred for a special education evaluation or if you request an evaluation, 34 C.F.R. § 300.504(a)(1);
2. The first time you file a complaint with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) in a school year, 34 C.F.R. § 300.504(a)(2);
3. The first time you or the district requests a due process hearing in a school year, 34 C.F.R. § 300.504(a)(2);
4. On the date the district decides to change the placement of your student by removing the student from school for a violation of the district discipline policy, 34 C.F.R § 300.504(a)(3); or
5. Upon your request, 34 C.F.R. § 300.504(a)(4).

## PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE

The district must provide you with prior written notice each time it proposes to initiate or change, or refuses to initiate or change:

- the identification of your child;
- the evaluation and educational placement of your child;
- the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to your child; or
- When you revoke consent for services for your child in writing and before the district stops providing special education and related services, 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.503(a)(1)-(2) and 300.300(b)(4)(i).

This written notice must include:

1. A description of the action proposed or refused by the district, 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(b)(1);
2. An explanation of why the district proposes or refuses to take the action, 34 C.F.R. § 300.503 (b)(2);
3. A description of each evaluation procedure, assessment, record, or report the district used as a basis for its proposal or refusal, 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(b)(3);
4. A statement that you, as parents of a child with a disability, have protection under these procedural safeguards and information about how you can get a copy of the brochure describing the procedural safeguards, 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(b)(4);
5. Sources for you to contact to obtain assistance in understanding these procedural safeguards, 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(b)(5);
6. A description of other options the IEP team considered and the reasons why those options were rejected, 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(b)(6); and
7. A description of other factors relevant to the district's proposal or refusal, 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(b)(7).

In addition to federal requirements, prior written notice must inform you that, except for the initial placement of your child in special education, the school district will proceed with its proposal for your child's placement, or for providing special education services, unless you notify the district of an objection within 14 days of when the district sent you the prior written notice. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 3a(1). The district must also provide you with a copy of the proposed IEP whenever the district proposes to initiate or change the content of the IEP. Minn. R. 3525.3600.

The prior written notice must also state that, if you object to a proposal or refusal in the prior written notice, you must have an opportunity for a conciliation conference, and the school district must inform you of other alternative dispute resolution procedures, including mediation and facilitated IEP team meetings, under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.091, Subdivisions 7-9. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 3a(2).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you need help in understanding any of your procedural rights or anything about your child's education, please contact your district's special education director or the person listed below. This notice must be provided in your native language or other mode of communication you may be using. If your mode of communication is not a written language, the district must take steps to translate this notice orally or by other means. The district must ensure that you understand the content of this notice and maintain written evidence that this notice was provided to you in an understandable mode of communication and that you understood the content of this notice. 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(c).

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For further information, you may contact one of the following organizations:

ARC Minnesota (advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities)

[www.thearcofminnesota.org](http://www.thearcofminnesota.org)

651-523-0823

1-800-582-5256

Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health

[www.macmh.org](http://www.macmh.org)

651-644-7333

1-800-528-4511

Minnesota Disability Law Center

[www.mndlc.org](http://www.mndlc.org)

612-334-5970 (Twin Cities Metro)

1-800-292-4150 (Greater Minnesota)

612-332-4668 (TTY)

PACER (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights)

[www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

952-838-9000

1-800-53-PACER,

952-838-0190 (TTY)

Minnesota Department of Education

[www.education.state.mn.us](http://www.education.state.mn.us)

651-582-8689

651-582-8201 (TTY)

## ELECTRONIC MAIL

If your school district gives parents the choice to receive notices by email, you can choose to receive your prior written notice, procedural safeguards notice, or notices related to a due process complaint via email. 34 C.F.R. § 300.505.

## PARENTAL CONSENT

### Definition of Consent

Consent means that you have been fully informed of all information relevant to the activity for which your consent is sought, in your native language, or through another mode of communication. 34 C.F.R. § 300.9(a). In order to consent you must understand and agree in writing to the carrying out of the activity for which your consent is sought. This written consent must list any records that will be released and to whom. 34 C.F.R. § 300.9(b).

### Revocation of Consent

Consent is voluntary and may be revoked in writing at any time. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.9(c)(1) and 300.300(b)(4). However, revocation of consent is not retroactive; meaning revocation of consent does not negate an action that has occurred after the consent was given and before the consent was revoked. 34 C.F.R. § 300.9(c)(2).

### When the District Must Obtain Your Consent

#### A. Initial Evaluation

The district must obtain your written and informed consent before conducting its initial evaluation of your child. 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(a)(1)(i) and Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 5(a). You or a district can initiate a request for an initial evaluation. 34 C.F.R. § 300.301(b). If you do not respond to a request for consent or if you refuse to provide consent for an initial evaluation, the district cannot override your refusal to provide consent. 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(a)(3)(i) and Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 5(a). An initial evaluation shall be conducted within 30 school days from the date the district receives your permission to conduct the evaluation, unless a conciliation conference or hearing is requested. Minn. R. 3525.2550, Subp. 2.

A district will not be found in violation of meeting its child find obligation or its obligations to conduct evaluations and reevaluations if you refuse to consent to or fail to respond to a request for consent for an initial evaluation. 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(a)(3)(ii).

If you consent to an initial evaluation, this consent cannot be construed as being consent for the initial provision of special education and related services. 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(a)(1)(ii).

#### B. Initial Placement and Provision of Special Education Services and Related Services

The district must obtain your written consent before proceeding with the initial placement of your child in a special education program and the initial provision of special education services and related services to your child determined to be a child with a disability. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 3a(1) and 5(a); 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(b)(1).

If you do not respond to a request for consent, or if you refuse to consent to the initial provision of special education and related services to your child, the district may not override your written refusal. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 5(a).

If you refuse to provide consent for the initial provision of special education and related services, or you fail to respond to a request to provide consent for the initial provision of special education and related services, the district will not be considered in violation for failure to provide your child with special education and related services for which the district requested consent. 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(b)(4)(i).

#### C. Reevaluations

Your consent is required before a district conducts a reevaluation of your child. 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(c). If you refuse consent to a reevaluation, the district may not override your written refusal. 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(c)(1)(ii) and Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 5(a). A reevaluation shall be conducted within 30 school days from the date the district receives your permission to conduct the evaluation or within 30 days from the expiration of the 14 calendar day time period during which you can object to the district's proposed action. Minn. R. 3525.2550, Subp. 2.

#### D. Transition Services

Your consent is required before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies providing or paying for transition services. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.622(a)(2) and 300.321(b)(3).

#### When Your Consent is Not Required

Except for an initial evaluation and the initial placement and provision of special education and related services, if you do not notify the district of your objection within 14 days of when the district sends the notice of the district's proposal to you, the district's proposal goes into effect even without your consent. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 3a(1).

Additionally, your consent is not required for a district to review existing data in your child's educational file as part of an evaluation or a reevaluation. 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(d)(1)(i).

Your consent is also not required for the district to administer a test or other evaluation that is given to all children, unless consent is required from parents of all children. 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(d)(1)(ii).

#### Parent's Right to Object and Right to a Conciliation Conference

You have a right to object to any action the district proposes within 14 calendar days of when the district sends you the prior written notice of their proposal. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 3a(1). If you object to the district's proposal, you have the right to request a conciliation conference, mediation, facilitated IEP team meeting or a due process hearing. 34 C.F.R. § 300.507; Minn. Stat. §§ 125A.091, Subd. 3a(2) and Subd. 14. Within ten calendar days from the date the district receives notice of your objection to its proposal or refusal in the district's prior written notice, the district will ask you to attend a conciliation conference. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 7.

Except as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.091, all discussions held during a conciliation conference are confidential and are not admissible in a due process hearing. Within five days after the final conciliation conference, the district must prepare and provide to you a conciliation conference memorandum that describes the district's final proposed offer of service. This memorandum is admissible evidence in any subsequent proceeding. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 7.

You and the district may also agree to use mediation or a facilitated individualized education program (IEP) team meeting to resolve your disagreement. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 8. You or the district can also request a due process hearing (see section about Impartial Due Process Hearings later in this document). The district must continue to provide an appropriate education to your child during the proceedings of a due process hearing. 34 C.F.R. § 300.518.

#### Confidentiality and Personally Identifiable Information

Personally identifiable information is information that includes, but is not limited to, a student's name, the name of the student's parent or other family members, the address of the student or student's family, a personal identifier, such as the student's Social Security number, student number, or biometric record, another indirect identifier, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, a mother's maiden name, other information that, alone or in combination, is linked to or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty, or information requested by a person who the educational agency or institution reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates. 34 C.F.R. § 99.3.

Districts and MDE must protect the confidentiality of any personally identifiable data, information, and records they collect, maintain, disclose and destroy. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.610 and 300.623.

Generally, your written consent is required before a district may disclose personally identifiable information from your child's educational record with anyone other than officials of participating agencies collecting or using the information under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or for any purpose other than meeting a requirement of that law. 34 C.F.R. §§ 99.3 and 99.31.

When your consent is not required to share personally identifiable information. Your consent, or the consent of an eligible student (age 18 or older), is not required before personally identifiable information contained in education records is released to officials of a school district or the state department of education for meeting IDEA requirements. 34 C.F.R. § 300.622(a).

Your child's educational records, including disciplinary records, can be transferred without your consent to officials of another school, district, or postsecondary institution if your child seeks to enroll in or attend the school or institution or a school in that district. 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(2).

Disclosures made without your consent must be authorized under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Please refer to 34 C.F.R. Part 99 for additional information on consent requirements concerning data privacy under federal law.

#### Directory Information

Directory information can be shared without your consent. This type of information is data contained in an education record of your child that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. 34 C.F.R. § 99.3.

Directory information includes, but is not limited to, a student's address, telephone number, email address, date and place of birth, major field of study, grade level, enrollment status, dates of attendance, participation in official activities and sports, weight and height of athletic team members, degrees, honors, and awards received, the most recent educational agency or institution attended, and a student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used for accessing or communicating electronically if certain criteria are met. Directory information does not include a student's Social Security number or a student ID number not used in connection with accessing or communicating electronically as provided under federal law. 34 C.F.R. § 99.3.

Districts must give you the option to refuse to let the district designate any or all data about your child as directory information. This notice can be given to you by any means reasonably likely to inform you or an eligible student of this right. Minn. Stat. § 13.32, Subd. 5. If you do not refuse to release the above information as directory information, that information is considered public data and can be shared without your consent.

Data about you (meaning parents) is private data but can be treated as directory information if the same procedures that are used by a district to designate student data as directory information are followed. Minn. Stat. § 13.32, Subd. 2(c).

WRITTEN ANNUAL NOTICE RELATING TO THIRD PARTY BILLING FOR IEP  
HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES

Before billing Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare for health-related services the first time, and each year, the district must inform you in writing that:

1. The district will share data related to your child and health-related services on your child's IEP with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to determine if your child is covered by Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare and whether those services may be billed to Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare.
2. Before billing Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare for health-related services the first time, the district must obtain your consent, including specifying the personally identifiable information that may be disclosed (e.g., records or information about the services that may be provided), the purpose of the disclosure, the agency to which the disclosure may be made (i.e. the Department of Human Services) and which specifies that you understand and agree that the school district may access your (or your child's) public benefits or insurance to pay for health-related services.
3. The district will bill Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare for the health-related services on your child's IEP. Minn. Stat. § 125A.21, Subd. 2(c)(1).
4. The district may not require you to sign up for or enroll in Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare or other insurance programs in order for your child to receive special education services.
5. The district may not require you to incur an out-of-pocket expense such as the payment of a deductible or co-pay amount incurred in filing a claim for health services provided, but may pay the cost that you otherwise would be required to pay.
6. The district may not use your child's benefits under Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare if that use would: decrease available lifetime coverage or any other insured benefit; result in your family paying for services that would otherwise be covered by the public benefits or insurance program and that are required for the child outside of the time your child is in school; increase your premiums or lead to the discontinuation of benefits or insurance; or risk your loss of eligibility for home and community-based waivers, based on aggregate health-related expenditures.
7. You have the right to receive a copy of education records the district shares with any third party when seeking reimbursement for IEP health-related services. Minn. Stat. § 125A.21, Subd. 2(c)(2).

You have the right to stop your consent for disclosure of your child's education records to a third party, including the Department of Human Services, at any time. If you stop consent, the district

may no longer share your child's education records to bill a third party for IEP health-related services. You can withdraw your consent at any time, and your child's IEP services will not change or stop. Minn. Stat. § 125A.21, Subd. 2(c)(3).

## INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

An independent educational evaluation (IEE) is an evaluation by a qualified person(s) who is not an employee of your district. 34 C.F.R. § 300.502(a)(3)(i). You may ask for an IEE at school district expense if you disagree with the district's evaluation. 34 C.F.R. § 300.502(b)(1). A hearing officer may also order an independent educational evaluation of your child at school district expense during a due process hearing. 34 C.F.R. § 300.502(d).

Upon request for an IEE, the district must give you information regarding its criteria for selection of an independent examiner and information about where an independent education evaluation may be obtained. 34 C.F.R. § 300.502(a)(2).

If you request an IEE, the district must, without delay, ensure that it is provided at public expense or request a hearing to determine the appropriateness of its evaluation. 34 C.F.R. § 300.502(b)(2). If the district goes to hearing and the hearing officer determines the district's evaluation is appropriate, you still have the right to an independent evaluation, but not at public expense. 34 C.F.R. § 300.502(b)(3).

If you obtain an IEE, the results of the evaluation must be considered by the IEP/IIP (Individual Interagency Intervention Plan) Team and may be presented as evidence at a due process hearing regarding your child. 34 C.F.R. § 300.502(c).

## EDUCATION RECORDS

### Definition of an Education Record

Under federal law an education record means those records that are directly related to a student and that are maintained by the department or the district.

### Your Access to Records

If you want to look at your child's education records, the district must give you access to those records for your review. Education records include most of the information about your child that is held by the school. 34 C.F.R. § 300.613(a). However, information held solely by your child's teacher for his or her own instructional use may not be included in the education records. Minn. Stat. § 13.32, Subd. 1(a).

The district must allow you to review the records without unnecessary delay, and before any meeting regarding an IEP, or any hearing or resolution session about your child. 34 C.F.R. § 300.613(a). In addition, the district must comply with your request to review your child's education records immediately, if possible, or within 10 days of the date of the request

(excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays), if immediate compliance is not possible.  
Minn. Stat. § 13.04, Subd. 3.

Your right to inspect and review records includes the right to:

1. An explanation or interpretation from the district of your child's records upon request, 34 C.F.R. § 300.613(b)(1); Minn. Stat. § 13.04, Subd. 3;
2. Have your representative inspect and review the records on your behalf, 34 C.F.R. § 300.613(b)(3);
3. Request that the district provide copies of your child's educational records to you, 34 C.F.R. § 300.613(b)(2); Minn. Stat. § 13.04, Subd. 3; and
4. Review your child's records as often as you wish in accordance with state law, 34 C.F.R. § 300.613(c). State law provides that if you have been shown private data and have been informed of its meaning, that data does not need to be disclosed to you for a period of 6 months unless a dispute or action is pending or new information is created or collected. Minn. Stat. § 13.04, Subd. 3.

#### Transfer of Rights

Your rights regarding accessing your child's education records generally transfer to your child at age 18. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.625 and 99.5(a). Notice must be provided to you and your child regarding this transfer of rights. 34 C.F.R. § 300.520(a)(3).

#### Records on More Than One Child

If any education record includes information on more than one child, you have the right to inspect and review only information relating to your child. 34 C.F.R. § 300.615. You can seek consent to review and inspect education records that include information about children in addition to your own, but those parents of those children have a right to refuse your request for consent.

#### List of Types and Locations of Information

Upon your request, the district and the department must provide you with a list of the types and locations of education records they collect, maintain or use. 34 C.F.R. § 300.616.

#### Record of Access by Others

The district must keep a record of each request for access to, and each disclosure of, personally identifiable information in your child's education records. This record of access must include the name of the individual who made the request or received personally identifiable information from your child's education records, the date access was given and the purpose of the disclosure or the individual's legitimate interest in the information. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.614 and 99.32.

### Consent to Release Records

Generally, your consent is required before personally identifiable information is released to unauthorized individuals or agencies. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.622(a) and 99.30(a); Minn. Stat. § 13.05, Subd. 4(d). The consent must be in writing and must specify the individuals or agencies authorized to receive the information: the nature of the information to be disclosed; the purpose for which the information may be used; and a reasonable expiration date for the authorization to release information. 34 C.F.R. § 99.30(b); Minn. Stat. § 13.05, Subd. 4(d). Upon request, the district must provide you with a copy of records it discloses after you have given this consent. 34 C.F.R. § 99.30(c).

The district may not disclose information contained in your child's IEP/IIP, including diagnosis and treatment information, to a health plan company without your signed and dated consent. Minn. Stat. § 125A.21, Subd. 7.

### Fees for Searching, Retrieving and Copying Records

The district may not charge a fee to search or retrieve records. However, if you request copies, the district may charge a reasonable fee for the copies, unless charging that fee would prevent you from exercising your right to inspect and review the education records because you cannot afford to pay it. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.617 and 99.11; Minn. Stat. §13.04, Subd. 3.

### Amendment of Records at Parent's Request

If you believe that information in your child's records is inaccurate, misleading, incomplete or in violation of your child's privacy or other rights, you may request in writing that the district amend or remove the information. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.618(a) and 99.20(a); Minn. Stat. § 13.04, Subd. 4.

The district must decide within a reasonable time whether it will amend the records. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.618(b) and 99.20(b). If the district decides not to amend the records, it must inform you that you have the right to a hearing to challenge the district's decision. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.618(c), 300.619 and 99.20(c). If, as a result of that hearing, the district decides that the information is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of your child's privacy right, it must inform you that you have the right to include a statement of your comments and disagreements alongside the challenged information in your child's education records. 34 C.F.R. § 300.620(b). A hearing to challenge information in education records must be conducted according to the procedures for such hearings under FERPA. 34 C.F.R. § 300.621.

### Transfer of Records

Minnesota Statutes require that a district, a charter school, or a nonpublic school transfer a student's educational records, including disciplinary records, from a school a student is transferring from to a school in which a student is enrolling within 10 business days of a request. Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 7.

## Destruction of Records

The district must inform you when personally identifiable information is no longer needed in order to provide education services to your child. 34 C.F.R. § 300.624(a). That information must be destroyed at your request. However, the school may retain a permanent record of your child's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed and year completed. 34 C.F.R. § 300.624(b).

Under federal law, destruction means the physical removal of personal identifiers from information so that the information is no longer personally identifiable. Thus, the student's record does not need to be physically destroyed to comply with your request to destroy special education related records. Districts can appropriately comply with this requirement by removing personally identifiable information from the student's records. The choice of destruction method generally lies with the school district. 34 C.F.R. § 300.611; Letter to Purcell, 211 IDELR 462 (OSEP, 1987); and Klein Indep. Sch. Dist., 17 IDELR 359 (SEA TC, 1990).

The district shall not destroy any education records if there is an outstanding request to inspect or review the records. 34 C.F.R. § 99.10(e).

Despite your request to destroy records a district can keep certain records necessary to comply with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA), which requires that recipients of federal funds keep records related to the use of those funds. Letter to New, 211 IDELR 473 (OSEP, 1987); 34 C.F.R. §300.611(a); and 20 U.S.C. Ch. 31, sec. 1232(f)(a). You may want to maintain certain special education records about your child for documentation purposes in the future, such as for applying for SSI benefits.

## MEDIATION

Mediation is a free, voluntary process to help resolve disputes. You or your district may request free mediation from the Minnesota Department of Education's Special Education Alternative Dispute Resolution program at 651-582-8222 or 1-866-466-7367. Mediation uses a neutral third party trained in dispute resolution techniques. Mediation may not be used to deny or delay your right to a due process hearing. Both you and district staff must agree to try mediation before a mediator can be assigned. At any time during the mediation, you or the district may end the mediation. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.506 and 300.152(a)(3)(ii).

If you and the district resolve all or a portion of the dispute or agree to use another procedure to resolve the dispute, the mediator shall ensure that the resolution or agreement is in writing and signed by both you and the district and that both parties receive a copy of the document. The written resolution or agreement shall state that all discussions that occurred during mediation are confidential and may not be used as evidence in any hearing or civil proceeding. The resolution or agreement is legally binding on both you and the district and is enforceable in state or federal district court. You or the district can request another mediation to resolve a dispute over implementing the mediation agreement. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 10.

## FILING A WRITTEN COMPLAINT

Any organization or individual may file a complaint with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(a). Complaints sent to MDE must:

1. Be in writing and be signed by the individual or organization filing the complaint, 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(a);
2. Allege violations of state or federal special education law or rule, 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(b)(1);
3. State the facts upon which the allegation is based, 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(b)(2);
4. Include the name, address and telephone number of the person or organization making the complaint, 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(b)(3);
5. Include the name and address of the residence of the child and the name of the school the child is attending, 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(b)(4)(i)(ii);
6. A description of the nature of the child's problem; including facts relating to the problem, 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(b)(4)(iv);
7. A proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to the party at the time the complaint is filed, 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(b)(4)(v); and
8. Be forwarded to the public agency providing services to the child at the same time the complaint is sent to MDE, 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(d).

The complaint must be sent to:

Minnesota Department Education  
Division of Compliance and Assistance  
Due Process Supervisor  
1500 West Highway 36  
Roseville, MN 55113-4266  
651.582.8689 Phone  
651.582.8725 Fax

The complaint must be received by MDE no later than one year after the alleged violation occurred. 34 C.F.R. § 300.153(c). MDE will issue a written decision within 60 days, unless exceptional circumstances require a longer time or you or the district agree to extend the time to participate in mediation. 34 C.F.R. § 300.152(a) and (b). The final complaint decision may be appealed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals by you (the parent) or the school district injured-in-fact by the decision within 60 days of receiving notice of the final decision.

## MODEL FORMS

MDE has developed model forms that can be used to file special education or due process complaints. These forms are not required, but are available as a resource to use when filing a complaint. 34 C.F.R. § 300.509. These model forms are available MDE's website: MDE > School Support > Compliance and Assistance > Due Process Forms.

## IMPARTIAL DUE PROCESS HEARING

Both you and the district have a right to request an impartial due process hearing in writing within two years of the date you or the agency knew or should have known about the alleged action that forms the basis of the due process complaint. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(a) and 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.507 and 300.511(e).

A due process hearing can be requested regarding a proposal or refusal to initiate or change a child's evaluation, IEP, educational placement, or to provide FAPE. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(a).

A due process hearing may address any matter related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, manifestation determination or provision of a free and appropriate public education of your child. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 12. Within 15 days of receiving notice of your due process complaint, and prior to the due process hearing, the school district must arrange for a resolution meeting with you and the relevant members of the IEP Team who have knowledge of the facts alleged in the due process complaint. 34 C.F.R. § 300.510(a).

The purpose of this meeting is for you to discuss the due process complaint, and the facts that form the basis of the due process complaint, so that the school district has the opportunity to resolve the dispute that is the basis for the due process complaint. 34 C.F.R. § 300.510(a)(2).

The resolution meeting need not be held if you and the school district agree in writing to waive the meeting or agree to mediation. 34 C.F.R. § 300.510(a)(3). A resolution meeting is also not required to be held when the district is the party who requests a due process hearing. 34 C.F.R. 300.510(a) cmts. at 71 F.R. 46700 (2006).

If the matter is not resolved within 30 days of receipt of the due process complaint, the hearing timelines begin. 34 C.F.R. § 300.510(b)(1).

If the school district is unable to obtain your participation in the resolution meeting or mediation after reasonable efforts have been made and the school district does not agree to waive the meeting in writing, the school district may, at the conclusion of the 30-day period, request that a hearing officer dismiss your due process complaint. 34 C.F.R. § 300.510(b)(4).

### Loss of Right to a Due Process Hearing

NOTE: Due to an interpretation of state law by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, if your child changes school districts and you do not request a due process hearing before your child enrolls in

a new district, you may lose the right to have a due process hearing about any special education issues that arose in the previous district. See *Thompson v. Bd. of the Special Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 144 F.3d.574 (8th Cir. 1998). You do still have a right to request a due process hearing about special educational issues that may arise in the new district where your child is attending.

#### Procedures for Initiation of a Due Process Hearing

Upon a written request for a hearing, the district must give you a copy of this procedural safeguard notice and a copy of your rights at hearing. 34 C.F.R. § 300.504(a)(2). If you or the district request a hearing, the other party must be provided with a copy of the request and submit the request to the department. Once it receives the request, the department must give a copy of the procedural safeguards notice to you. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(d). All written requests must include:

1. The name of your child, 34 C.F.R. § 300.508(b)(1); Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(b);
2. The address of your child, 34 C.F.R. § 300.508(b)(2); Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(b);
3. The name of the school your child is attending, 34 C.F.R. § 300.508(b)(3); Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(b);
4. A description of the problem(s), including your view of the facts, 34 C.F.R. § 300.508(b)(5); Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(b); and
5. A proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to you at the time, 34 C.F.R. § 300.508(b)(6); Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(b).

MDE maintains a list of qualified hearing officers. Upon receipt of a written request for a hearing, MDE will appoint a hearing officer from that list to conduct the hearing. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 13. Below are a few of your rights at hearing. This is not a complete list of rights.

Both you and the district have the right to:

1. Be accompanied and advised by counsel and by individuals with special knowledge or training with respect to the problems of children with disabilities, 34 C.F.R. § 300.512(a)(1);
2. Present evidence and confront, cross-examine and compel the attendance of witnesses, 34 C.F.R. § 300.512(a)(2);
3. Prohibit the introduction of any evidence at the hearing that has not been disclosed at least five business days before the hearing, including evaluation data and recommendations based on that data, 34 C.F.R. § 300.512(a)(3); and

4. Receive a free copy of the hearing transcript or electronic recording of findings of fact and decisions, 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.512(a)(4)-(a)(5) and (c)(3).

As a parent, you, specifically, have the right to:

1. Have your child, who is the subject of the hearing, present, 34 C.F.R. § 300.512(c)(1);
2. Open the hearing to the public, 34 C.F.R. § 300.512(c)(2); and
3. Have the record or transcript of the hearing and the hearing officer's findings of fact, conclusions of law and decisions made provided to you at no cost. 34 C.F.R. § 300.512(c)(3); Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 12.

#### Responding to the Hearing Request

If you file a hearing request and you did not previously receive a prior written notice from the district about the subject matter of the hearing request, the district must send you a written explanation of why the district refused to take the action raised in the hearing request within 10 days of receiving the hearing request. This explanation must include a description of other options considered by the IEP team, why those options were rejected, a description of each evaluation procedure, assessment, record, or report that the district used as the basis for the proposed or refused action, and a description of the factors relevant to the district's proposal or refusal decision. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(e)(1).

The district can assert that the hearing request does not meet the requirements under state law. A hearing request is considered sufficient unless the party who received the request notifies the hearing officer in writing within 15 days of receiving the request that they believe the request does not meet statutory requirements. The hearing officer must determine whether the hearing request meets statutory requirements within 5 days of receiving the request and notify the parties. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(e) (1) and (2).

Upon receiving your hearing request, the district must also send you a written response that addresses the issues you raised in the hearing request within 10 days of receiving the request. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(f).

#### Disclosure of Additional Evidence Before a Hearing

A prehearing conference must be held within 5 business days of the date the commissioner appoints a hearing officer. This conference can be held in person, at a location within the district, or by telephone. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 15. At least 5 business days before a hearing, you and the district must disclose to each other all evaluations of your child completed by that date and recommendations based on those evaluations that are intended to be used at the hearing. 34 C.F.R. § 300.512(b)(1). A hearing officer may refuse to allow you to introduce any undisclosed evaluations or recommendations at the hearing without consent of the other party. 34 C.F.R. § 300.512(b)(2).

### The Hearing Decision

A hearing decision must be issued and provided to each party within 45 calendar days, or within an appropriately extended time period, upon the expiration of the 30-day resolution period after the due process complaint was received by the state agency. 34 C.F.R. § 300.515; Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 20(a). A hearing officer may extend the time beyond the 45-day period if requested by either party for good cause shown on the record. 34 C.F.R. § 300.515(c); Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 18, 20(a). A hearing officer must conduct oral arguments in a hearing at a time and place that is reasonably convenient to you and your child. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 20(a). A hearing officer's decision on whether your child received FAPE must be based on evidence and arguments that directly relate to FAPE. 34 C.F.R. § 300.513. The hearing decision is final unless you or the district files a civil action. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.514(a)-(b) and 300.516(a). A hearing officer lacks the authority to amend a decision except for clerical and mathematical errors. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 20(b).

### Separate Request for Due Process Hearing

You have the right to file a separate due process complaint on an issue separate from a due process complaint already filed. 34 C.F.R. § 300.513(c).

### COMPLAINT AND HEARINGS DATABASE

Final decisions on special education complaints and due process hearings are available to the public on the MDE website. 34 C.F.R. § 300.513(d). MDE maintains a public database called the Complaints, Hearings and Letters Search Engine. Decisions available in the database are redacted and all personally identifiable information is removed. This database is available on the Compliance and Assistance webpage on the MDE website at:  
<http://w20.education.state.mn.us/WebsiteContent/ComplianceSearch.jsp>.

### CIVIL ACTION

When you or the district disagrees with the findings or decisions made by a hearing officer, either party may file a court action. The action may be brought in federal district court or the state court of appeals. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.514(b) and 300.516(a). Different standards of review apply in each court. An appeal to the state court of appeals must be made within 60 calendar days of your receipt of the decision. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 24. An appeal to federal district court must be made within 90 days of the date of the decision. 34 C.F.R. § 300.516(b); Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 24.

### PLACEMENT DURING A HEARING OR CIVIL ACTION

During a hearing or court action, unless you and the district agree otherwise, your child will remain in the educational placement where he/she is currently placed and must not be denied initial admission to school. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.518(a) and (b) and 300.533. This is commonly referred to as the “stay-put” rule.

Two exceptions to the “stay-put” rule exist:

1. Students may be removed from their educational setting for not more than 45 school days to an interim alternative educational placement for certain weapon, drug or serious bodily injury violations, 34 C.F.R. § 300.530(g)(1)-(3); and
2. A hearing officer’s decision agreeing with you that a change in placement is appropriate as the “stay-put” placement during subsequent appeals, 34 C.F.R. § 300.518(d).

#### EXPEDITED HEARINGS

You (the parent) or the district can request an expedited hearing in the following situations:

1. Whenever you dispute the district’s proposal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation or educational placement of your child or the district’s provision of FAPE to your child, Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(a); 34 C.F.R. § 300.532(a) and (c)(1); 34 C.F.R. 300.507(a) and 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(a)(1);
2. Whenever you dispute the district’s refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation or educational placement of your child or the district’s provision of FAPE to your child, Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 14(a); 34 C.F.R. § 300.532(a) and (c)(1); 34 C.F.R. § 300.507(a); 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(a)(2);
3. Whenever you dispute the manifestation determination, 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.530 and 300.532(a); and
4. Whenever the district believes that maintaining the current placement of your child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, 34 C.F.R. § 300.532(b)(2)(ii).

You or a school district may file a written request for an expedited due process hearing as described above. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 19; 34 C.F.R. § 300.532(c)(1).

#### Timelines for Expedited Hearings

Expedited hearings must be held within 20 school days of the date the hearing request is filed. The hearing officer must issue a decision within 10 school days after the hearing. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 19; 34 C.F.R. § 300.532(c)(2). A resolution meeting must occur within 7 days of receiving the hearing request, unless you and the school district agree in writing to either waive the resolution meeting or use the mediation process. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 19; 34 C.F.R. § 300.532(c)(3) and (3)(i). The expedited due process hearing may proceed unless the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties within 15 days of receiving the request. Minn. Stat. § 125A.091, Subd. 19; 34 C.F.R. § 300.532(c)(3)(ii).

### Dismissal of Complaint

If the school district is unable to obtain your participation in the resolution meeting or mediation after reasonable efforts have been made and the school district does not agree to waive the meeting in writing, the school district may, at the conclusion of the 30-day period, request that a hearing officer dismiss your due process complaint. 34 C.F.R. § 300.510(b)(4).

### Placement by a Hearing Officer

A hearing officer may decide to move your child to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days if the hearing officer determines your child is substantially likely to injure himself or herself or others if he/she remains in the current placement. 34 C.F.R. § 300.532(b)(2)(ii).

### Right to Appeal Decision

You or the district can appeal the decision of a hearing officer in an expedited due process hearing. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.532(c)(5) and 300.514.

### INTERIM ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT

The district may change your child's educational placement for up to 45 school days, if your child:

1. Carries a dangerous weapon to or possesses a dangerous weapon at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the school district or MDE as defined in federal law, 34 C.F.R. § 300.530(g)(1);
2. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the school district or MDE. This does not include alcohol or tobacco, 34 C.F.R. § 300.530(g)(2); or
3. Inflicts serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the school district or MDE as defined in federal law, 34 C.F.R. § 300.530(g)(3).

On the date the district decides to remove your child and the removal is a change of placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the school district must notify you of that decision, and provide you with the procedural safeguards notice. 34 C.F.R. § 300.530(h).

The IEP/IIP team determines the interim alternative educational setting and appropriate special education services. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.530(d)(5) and 300.531. Even though this is a temporary change, it must allow your child:

1. To continue to participate in the general education curriculum and progress towards meeting goals set out in your child's IEP, although in a different setting, 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.530(d)(1)(i) and (d)(4); and
2. Include services and modifications designed to prevent the behavior from recurring, 34 C.F.R. § 300.530(d)(1)(ii).

If your child is placed in an interim alternative educational setting, an IEP/IIIP meeting must be convened within 10 school days of the decision. 34 C.F.R. § 300.530(e)(1). At this meeting, the team must discuss behavior and its relationship to your child's disability. The team must review evaluation information regarding your child's behavior, and determine the appropriateness of your child's IEP/IIIP and behavior plan. The team will then determine if your child's conduct was caused by, or had a direct relationship to his or her disability, or if your child's conduct was the direct result of the school district's failure to implement the IEP. 34 C.F.R. § 300.530(e)(1).

#### ATTORNEY'S FEES FOR HEARINGS

You may be able to recover attorney fees if you prevail in a due process hearing. 34 C.F.R. § 300.517(a)(1)(i). A judge may make an award of attorney's fees based on prevailing rates in your community. 34 C.F.R. § 300.517(c)(1). The court may reduce an award of attorney's fees if it finds that you unreasonably delayed the settlement or decision in the case. 34 C.F.R. § 300.517(c)(4)(i). If the district prevails and a court agrees that your request for a hearing was for any improper purpose, you may be required to pay the district's attorney's fees. 34 C.F.R. § 300.517(a)(iii).

#### EXCLUSIONS AND EXPULSION OF PUPILS WITH A DISABILITY

Before your child with a disability can be expelled or excluded from school, a manifestation determination must be held. Minn. Stat. § 121A.43(d). If your child's misbehavior is related to his or her disability, your child cannot be expelled.

When a child with a disability is excluded or expelled under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes Sections 121A.41-56, for misbehavior that is not a manifestation of the child's disability, the district shall continue to provide special education and related services after the period a period of suspension, if imposed. Minn. Stat. § 121A.43(d).

#### DISCIPLINARY REMOVALS

If a child with a disability is removed from his or her current educational placement, this is considered a change of placement if:

1. The removal is for more than 10 school days in a row, 34 C.F.R. § 300.536(a)(1); or
2. Your child has been subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because:

- a. The series of removals total more than 10 school days in a year, 34 C.F.R. § 300.536(a)(2)(i);
- b. Your child's behavior is substantially similar to your child's behavior in previous incidents that resulted in a series of removals, 34 C.F.R. § 300.536(a)(2)(ii); and
- c. Of additional factors such as the length of each removals, the total amount of time your child has been removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another, 34 C.F.R. § 300.536(a)(2)(iii).

The determination of whether a pattern of removals constitutes a change of placement is made by the district. 34 C.F.R. § 300.536(b)(1). If this determination is challenged it is subject to review through due process and judicial proceedings. 34 C.F.R. § 300.536(b)(2).

#### CHILDREN NOT DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES

If your child has not been determined eligible for special education and related services and violates a code of student conduct, and the school district knew before the discipline violation that your child was a child with a disability then your child can utilize the protections described in this notice. 34 C.F.R. § 300.534(a).

A district is deemed to have knowledge that your child is a child with a disability if, before the behavior that brought about the disciplinary action occurred:

1. You expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel at the district or to your child's teacher that your child is in need of special education and related services, 34 C.F.R. § 300.534(b)(1);
2. You requested an evaluation related to eligibility for special education and related services under Part B of the IDEA, 34 C.F.R. § 300.534(b)(2); or
3. Your child's teacher or other district personnel expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by your child directly to the district's director of special education or to other district supervisory staff, 34 C.F.R. § 300.534(b)(3).

#### Exceptions to a District's Knowledge

A district would not be deemed to have such knowledge if:

1. You have previously refused consent for an evaluation of your child or you have previously refused special education services, 34 C.F.R. § 300.534(c)(1)(i)-(ii); or
2. Your child has already been evaluated and determined to not be a child with a disability under Part B of IDEA, 34 C.F.R. § 300.534(c)(2).

#### Conditions that Apply if There is No Basis of Knowledge.

If a district does not have knowledge that your child is a child with a disability prior to taking disciplinary measures against your child, your child may be subjected to similar disciplinary consequences that are applied to children without disabilities who engage in similar behaviors. 34 C.F.R. § 300.534(d).

If a request is made for an evaluation of your child during the time period in which your child is subjected to disciplinary measures, the evaluation must be conducted in an expedited manner. 34 C.F.R. § 300.534(d)(2)(i). Until the evaluation is complete, your child remains in the educational placement determined by the district, which can include suspension or expulsion without educational services. 34 C.F.R. § 300.534(d)(2)(ii). In Minnesota, regular special education services are provided on the sixth day of a suspension and alternative education services are provided.

#### REFERRAL TO AND ACTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

A district can report a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities and State law enforcement and judicial authorities can exercise their responsibilities under the law related to crimes committed by a child with a disability. 34 C.F.R. § 300.535(a).

#### Transmittal of records

If a district reports a crime committed by a child with a disability, the district must ensure that copies of the child's special education and disciplinary records are transmitted to the appropriate authorities to whom the crime is reported for consideration. However, the district may only transmit copies of your child's special education and disciplinary records to the extent permitted by FERPA. 34 C.F.R. § 300.535(b).

#### PRIVATE SCHOOL PLACEMENT

IDEA does not require the district to pay for the cost of educating your child, including special education and related services, at a private school if the district made FAPE available to your child and you chose to place your child in a private school. 34 C.F.R. § 300.148(a). However, you may be able to recover tuition expenses for a private school placement if you informed the district of your intent to enroll your child in a private school at public expense in a timely manner and if a hearing officer finds that the district did not promptly make FAPE available to your child prior to your child being enrolled in the private school and if the private placement is appropriate. You must inform the district of your intent to place your child in a private placement at public expense at the most recent IEP/IIP meeting prior to removal of your child from public school or by written notice to the district at least 10 business days prior to removal of your child from public school. 34 C.F.R. § 300.148(c)-(d).

Your notice must state why you disagree with the district's proposed IEP/IIP or placement. If a hearing officer or court finds that the district failed to provide or is unable to provide your child

with an appropriate education and that the private placement is appropriate, you may be reimbursed for the cost of the private placement. Failure to tell the school of your intent to enroll your child in a private school at public expense, failure to make your child available for evaluation prior to placing your child in a private school after the district has given you notice of its intent to evaluate your child, or other unreasonable delay on your part could result in a reduction or denial of reimbursement for the private school placement. 34 C.F.R. § 300.148(d).

A hearing officer cannot reduce or deny the cost of reimbursement if: the district prevented you from being provided with this notice; you did not receive notice of your responsibilities as discussed above in this section; or if compliance with the above requirements would likely result in physical harm to your child and if you failed to provide the required notice because you cannot write in English or if compliance with the above requirements would likely result in serious emotional harm to your child. 34 C.F.R. § 300.148(e).



## **PART C PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS NOTICE**

### **INFANT AND TODDLER INTERVENTION**

The intent of this document is to offer general information about special education rights provided by state and federal law provided to parents of children from birth through age 2. It explains a selection of some of the rights provided to parents under the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) and Minnesota laws; however, it is not a complete explanation of those rights. This document does not constitute legal advice, nor is it a substitute for consulting with a licensed attorney regarding your specific legal situation.

### **INTRODUCTION**

This brochure provides an overview of parental special education rights for infant and toddler intervention services, sometimes called procedural safeguards. This Notice of Procedural Safeguards must be given to you when your child is referred under Part C of the IDEA, including when you or the district request a due process hearing. The district must also make available an initial copy of your child's early intervention record, at no cost to you.

### **PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE**

The school district or a service provider must provide you with prior written notice within a reasonable timeframe before each time it proposes to initiate or change, or refuses to initiate or change, the identification, evaluation, and education placement of your child or the provision of appropriate infant and toddler intervention services to your child and your child's family. This notice must be given to you before any changes are made and must include sufficient detail to inform you of:

1. The action that is being proposed or refused;
2. An explanation of why the district proposes or refuses to take the action; and
3. All procedural safeguards that are available under Part C of the IDEA, including a description of mediation, how to file a state complaint, and a due process complaint in the provisions, and any timelines under those procedures.

The notice must be written in a language understandable to the general public and provided in your native language unless it is clearly not feasible to do so.

If your native language or other mode of communication is not a written language, the public agency, or designated early intervention service provider, must take steps to ensure that the notice is translated orally or by other means to you in your native language or other mode of communication. The provider must also take steps to ensure that you understands the notice; and, that there is written evidence that these requirements have been met.

Native language, when used with respect to an individual who is limited English proficient, means the language normally used by that individual, or in the case of a child, the language normally used by the parents of the child. For evaluations and assessments conducted for the child, native language means the language normally used by the child, if this language is determined developmentally appropriate for the child by the qualified personnel conducting the evaluation or assessment. For an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired, or for an individual with no written language, native language means the mode of communication that is normally used by the individual, such as sign language, braille, or oral communication.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you need help understanding any of your procedural rights or anything about your child's education, please contact your child's early childhood special education coordinator, the school district's special education director or the person listed below. This notice must be provided in your native language or other mode of communication you may be using.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ (ex. Early childhood coordinator or special ed director)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

For further information, you may contact one of the following organizations:

ARC Minnesota (advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities)  
[www.thearcofminnesota.org](http://www.thearcofminnesota.org)

651-523-0823; 1-800-582-5256

Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health

[www.macmh.org](http://www.macmh.org)

651-644-7333; 1800-528-4511

Minnesota Disability Law Center

[www.mndlc.org](http://www.mndlc.org)

612-332-1441; 1-800-292-4150

612-332-4668 (TTY)

PACER (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights)

[www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

952-838-9000; 1-800-53-PACER

952-838-0190 (TTY)

Minnesota Department of Education

[www.education.state.mn.us](http://www.education.state.mn.us)

651-582-8689

651-582-8201 (TTY)

## **PARENTAL CONSENT**

### Definition of Consent

As a parent, you have the right to give consent to any action proposed by the district. Consent means that you have been fully informed, in your native language, of all information relevant to the activity for which your written permission is sought and that you fully understand and agree in writing with carrying out the activity for which consent is sought. The written consent must describe the activity and list any early intervention records that will be released and to whom. Consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time. However if you revoke your consent, that revocation is not retroactive.

### When the District Must Obtain Your Consent

There are several situations in which the district must obtain your written consent before acting. The district must obtain your written consent before the following:

1. Administering screening procedures that are used to determine whether your child is suspected of having a disability;
2. Conducting all Part C evaluations and assessments of your child;
3. Providing early intervention services to your child;
4. Using public benefits or private insurance to pay for your child's Part C early intervention services in certain situations; and
5. Disclosing personally identifiable information about you or your child.

As a parent, you also have the right to receive written notice of and to provide written consent to the exchange of information among agencies that is consistent with state and federal law.

#### Parent's Right to Decline Consent

If you do not provide consent, the district must make reasonable efforts to ensure that you are fully aware of the nature of the evaluation and assessment, or the early intervention services that would be available, and that you understand that your child will not be able to receive the evaluation and assessment or receive early intervention services unless you provide consent. The district may not use the due process hearing procedures in Part B or Part C of the IDEA to challenge your refusal to provide any consent that is required. Thus, if you refuse, in writing, to consent to the initial evaluation or reevaluation of your child the district may not override your written refusal.

#### Parental Right to Decline Services

You can decide whether or not to accept or decline any early intervention service. You can selectively accept or decline any early intervention service, including declining a service after first accepting it, without jeopardizing other early intervention services your child may receive.

#### Confidentiality and Personally Identifiable Information

Personally identifiable information is information that includes, but is not limited to, your child's name; your name (parent's name) or other family member's name; your address; your child's address; a personal identifier, such as your child's or your Social Security number; biometric record; another indirect identifier, such as the child's date of birth, place of birth, a mother's maiden name, or a list of personal characteristics; or other information that would make it possible to identify your child with reasonable certainty.

Districts, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), and any other early intervention service providers must protect the confidentiality of any personally identifiable data about you and your child, including information and records they collect, use and maintain, disclose and destroy. Generally, a district or other participating agency may not disclose personally identifiable information, as defined in Part C of the IDEA, to any party except participating agencies (including the lead agency and early intervention service providers) that are part of the state's Part C system without parental consent unless authorized to do so under the IDEA or for any purpose other than meeting a requirement of that law. Please refer to the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for additional information on consent requirements concerning data privacy under federal law.

Confidentiality provisions under Part C of the IDEA apply from the point in time when your child is referred for early intervention services until the district is no longer required to maintain or no longer maintains the child's information under applicable state or federal laws, whichever is later.

### **Notice to Parents about Confidentiality**

The district must give you notice when your child is referred under Part C of the IDEA that fully informs you about the confidentiality requirements discussed above. This notice should include a description of your child about whom personally identifiable information is maintained, the types of information about your child requested, the method intended to be used in gathering information, including the sources from whom information is gathered, and how the information about your child will be used. This notice must also include a summary of the policies and procedures that the district and providing agencies must follow regarding storage of data about you and your child, disclosure of this data to third parties, and retention and destruction of personally identifiable information. Additionally, this notice must include a description of all of your rights and your child's rights regarding this information, including rights under the Part C confidentiality provisions. Lastly, this notice must include a description of the extent that the notice is provided in the native languages of the various population groups in the state.

### **INDIVIDUAL FAMILY SERVICE PLANS (IFSP)**

If your child is under age three and has a disability, you and your child have a right to receive an IFSP. An IFSP is a written plan that is developed by a team to record your goals for your family and your child. An IFSP also lists the services that will best help you and your child reach those goals and describe when, where, and how services will be delivered. You and other family members work with the early intervention service coordinator and other providers (if appropriate) to create the IFSP. You may invite anyone you wish to the IFSP meetings, including an advocate. The IFSP is reviewed at least every six months, or more frequently if requested. You are involved in planning the time, date and place of these meetings to ensure your participation. You may request a meeting to review your child's IFSP at any time, even if one recently took place. A district must provide you with a copy of each of your child's evaluations, assessments, family assessments, and IFSPs as soon as possible after each IFSP meeting at no cost to you.

### **THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE SERVICES IN NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS**

Early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities are focused around your family's and your child's daily routines and are designed to be carried out within regular activities. These services are provided, to the maximum extent appropriate, in natural environments. This helps you and/or your child's other caregivers learn strategies for teaching your child new skills that may be practiced throughout the day. When a service needs to be provided anywhere other than a natural environment, the IFSP team must provide written justification in the IFSP.

**WRITTEN ANNUAL NOTICE RELATING TO THIRD-PARTY BILLING FOR IFSP (INDIVIDUAL FAMILY SERVICE PLAN) HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES**

The school district must obtain your consent before your (or your child's) public benefits or insurance or private insurance information is used to pay for Part C services, if such consent is required.

The district must provide you annual written notice that:

- G. Parental consent must be obtained under Part C of the IDEA before the state lead agency or Early Intervention Service Provider discloses personal information for billing purposes;
- H. A statement of the no-cost protection provisions in Part C of the IDEA. If you do not provide consent, Part C services must still be made available to you and your child through the IFSP for which you have provided consent;
- I. The district will bill medical assistance or Minnesota Care for the health-related services on your child's IFSP;
- J. You have the right to receive a copy of education records the district shares with any third party when seeking reimbursement for health-related services on your child's IFSP; and
- K. You have a right to withdraw your consent to disclose your child's education records to a third party at any time. If you withdraw consent, the district may no longer share your child's education records to bill a third party for IFSP health-related services. You can withdraw your consent at any time, and your child's IFSP services will not change or stop.

**EDUCATION RECORDS**

Your Access to Records

You have the right to inspect and review all Part C early intervention records about your child and your child's family that are collected, maintained or used under Part C of the IDEA, including records related to evaluations and assessments, screening, eligibility determinations, development and implementation of IFSPs, provision of early intervention services, individual complaints involving your child, or any part of your child's early intervention record. Upon request, the district must give you access to your child's early intervention records without unnecessary delay and before any meeting regarding an IFSP or any due process hearing. The district must respond to your request immediately, if possible, or within 10 days of the request (excluding weekends and legal holidays).

Your right to inspect and review early intervention records includes the right to:

- 1. A response from the participating district to reasonable requests for explanations or interpretations of your child's record;

2. Request that the participating district provide copies of your child's early intervention records to you if failure to provide these copies would effectively prevent you from exercising your right to inspect and review the records;
3. Have your representative inspect and review the early intervention records; and
4. Review your child's records as often as you wish, in accordance with state law. State law provides that if you have been shown private data and have been informed of its meaning, that data does not need to be disclosed to you for a period of six months unless a dispute or action is pending or new information is created or collected.

A district may presume that you have the authority to inspect and review records relating to your child unless the district has been provided documentation that you do not have the authority under applicable state laws governing such matters as custody, foster care, guardianship, separation, and divorce.

Under Minnesota state law, education records include most of the information about your child that is held by the school, including evaluations and assessments, eligibility determinations, development and implementation of IFSPs, individual complaints dealing with your child, and any other records about your child and family. However, information held solely by your child's teacher for his or her own instructional use may not be included in the education records.

#### Disclosure to Health Plan Company

The district may not disclose information contained in your child's IFSP, including diagnosis and treatment information, to a health plan company without your signed consent.

#### Records on More Than One Child

If any education record includes information on more than one child, you only have the right to inspect and review information relating to your child. You can seek consent to review and inspect education records that include information about children in addition to your own, but the parents of those children have a right to refuse your request for consent.

#### Record of Access by Others

The district must keep a record of each request for access and who obtains access to early intervention records collected, maintained, or used under Part C about you and your child. Access to these records by you and authorized representatives and employees of the district do not need to be recorded. This record of access must include the name of the individual to whom access was given, and the purpose for which the individual was authorized to use the early intervention records.

#### List of Types and Locations of Information

Upon your request, the district and MDE must provide you with a list of the types and locations of education records they collect, maintain or use.

### Consent to Release Records

Generally, your consent is required before personally identifiable information is released to unauthorized individuals or agencies. The consent must be in writing and must specify the individuals or agencies authorized to receive the information; the nature of the information to be disclosed; the purpose for which the information may be used; and a reasonable expiration date for the authorization to release information. Upon request, the district must provide you with a copy of records it discloses.

### Fees for Searching, Retrieving and Copying Records

The district may not charge a fee to search or retrieve records. However, if you request copies, the district may charge a reasonable fee for the copies, unless charging that fee would prevent you from exercising your right to inspect and review the education records because you cannot afford to pay it. A district must provide you with a copy of each of your child's evaluations, assessments, family assessments, and IFSPs as soon as possible after each IFSP meeting at no cost to you.

### Amendment of Records at Parent's Request

If you believe that information in your child's early intervention records is inaccurate, misleading, incomplete, or in violation of your child's privacy or other rights or your rights as a parent, you may request that the district amend the record or remove the information.

The district must decide within a reasonable time whether it will amend the records. If the district decides not to amend the records, it must inform you of its refusal to amend the records and inform you that you have the right to a hearing to challenge the district's decision.

### Opportunity for a Hearing

Upon your request, the district must provide you with the opportunity for a hearing to challenge information in your child's early intervention records to ensure that it is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of you or your child. You may request a hearing under the procedures set out under Part C of the IDEA or you may request a hearing under Minnesota's due process hearing procedures.

If as a result of the hearing the district decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the privacy or other rights of you or your child, it must amend the information accordingly and inform you in writing.

If, as a result of that hearing, the district decides that the information in your child's early intervention record is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights or other rights of you or your child, it must inform you that you have the right to include a statement of your comments and disagreements alongside the challenged information in your child's early intervention education records. Any explanation placed alongside your child's early intervention education records must be kept by the district as part of your child's early

intervention records as long as your child's records are maintained by the district. If your child's early intervention records or the contested portion of your child's records are disclosed by the district to any party, the explanation you submitted must also be disclosed to the party.

#### Transfer of Records

Minnesota Statutes require that a district, a charter school, or a nonpublic school transfer a student's educational records, including disciplinary records, from a school a student is transferring from to a school in which a student is enrolling within 10 business days of a request.

#### Destruction of Records

The district must inform you when personally identifiable information collected, maintained, or used by the district is no longer needed in order to provide early intervention services to your child. You have the right to request that education records about the provision of early intervention services to your child under Part C of the IDEA be destroyed upon your request. This information must be destroyed by the district upon receiving your request. However, the district may retain a permanent record of your child's name, date of birth, parent contact information (including address and phone number), names of service coordinators and early intervention service providers, and exit data (including year and age upon exit, and any programs your child entered upon exiting Part C).

Under federal law, destruction means the physical destruction of the record or the removal of personal identifiers from information ensuring that the information is no longer personally identifiable. Thus, your child's record does not need to be physically destroyed to comply with your request to destroy special education related records. Districts can appropriately comply with this requirement by removing personally identifiable information from your child's records. The choice of destruction method is generally up to the school district.

Despite your request to destroy records, a district can keep certain records necessary to comply with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA), which requires that recipients of federal funds keep records related to the use of those funds. You may want to maintain certain special education records about your child for documentation purposes in the future, such as for applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

The district shall not destroy any education records if there is an outstanding request to inspect or review the records.

#### **CHILD'S RIGHT TO A SURROGATE PARENT**

A child with a disability whose parent cannot be identified or located by the district using reasonable efforts, or who is a ward of the state, has the right to have a surrogate parent assigned to them.

The appropriate public agency must determine whether a child needs a surrogate parent and assign a surrogate to the child. In appointing a surrogate parent for a child, the public agency must consult with the agency that has been assigned to care for the child. The public agency must make reasonable efforts to ensure the assignment of a surrogate parent not more than 30 days after a public agency determines that the child needs a surrogate parent.

A surrogate parent may be selected in any way permitted under state law. The appropriate public agency must ensure that the person selected as a surrogate parent is not an employee of any state agency or early intervention service provider that provides services or care to the child or any family member of the child; has no personal or professional interest that conflicts with the interests of the child he or she represents; and has knowledge and skills necessary for adequate representation of the child. In the case of a child who is a ward of the state, the surrogate parent can be appointed by the judge overseeing the child's case, as long as the surrogate parent appointed satisfies the above-mentioned requirements. An individual who qualifies to be a surrogate parent is not an employee of the public agency solely because he or she is paid by the agency to serve as a surrogate parent.

A surrogate parent has the same rights as a parent for all purposes under the Part C regulations. Thus, a surrogate parent may represent a child in all matters related to the evaluation and assessment of the child, development, and implementation of the child's IFSP, including annual evaluations and periodic reviews, the ongoing provision of early intervention services, and any other rights available to the child under the Part C regulations.

## **ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

Parties are encouraged to resolve disputes over the identification, evaluation, educational placement, manifestation determination, interim alternative educational placement, or the provision of a free appropriate public education to your child through conciliation, mediation, facilitated IFSP team meetings, or through other alternative processes. All alternative dispute resolution options are voluntary on your part and cannot be used to deny or delay your right to a due process hearing. All alternative dispute resolution processes are provided at no cost to you.

## **MEDIATION**

Mediation is a free, voluntary process to help resolve disputes. The state bears the cost of the mediation process. You or your district may request mediation from MDE at 651-582-8222 or 1-866-466-7367. Mediation is conducted by a qualified and impartial mediator (a third party) trained in effective mediation techniques. The state maintains a list of individuals who are qualified mediators and knowledgeable in laws and regulations relating to the provision of special education and related services. Mediators are selected by the state on a rotational and geographic basis.

Mediation may not be used to deny or delay your right to a due process hearing or any other rights under Part C of the IDEA. Both you and district staff must agree to try mediation before a

mediator can be assigned. At any time during the mediation, you or the district may end the mediation. Each session in the mediation process must be scheduled in a timely manner and must be held in a location that is convenient for both you and the district. You and the district must complete the mediation process within 30 calendar days of the date MDE receives a written request for mediation, signed by both parties.

If you and the district reach an agreement to the dispute during the mediation process, the agreement must be set forth in writing. The agreement must also be signed by both you (the parent) and a representative of the district who has the authority to bind the district. Parties to the mediation will receive a copy of the agreement. Discussions held during the mediation process are confidential and cannot be used as evidence in any subsequent due process hearing or civil proceeding.

Resolution of a dispute through mediation, or other form of alternative dispute resolution, is not limited to formal disputes arising from your objection and is not limited to the period following a request for a due process hearing. You may request mediation at any time to resolve a dispute arising under Part C of the IDEA, including matters arising prior to the filing of a due process complaint, regardless of whether a special education complaint has been filed or a request for a due process hearing has been made.

The local primary agency may request mediation on behalf of the involved agencies when disputes arise between agencies regarding responsibilities to coordinate, provide, pay for, or facilitate payment for infant and toddler early intervention services. You or the district can request another mediation to resolve a dispute over implementing the mediation agreement.

An individual who serves as a mediator may not be an employee of the state, the district, or a provider that is involved in the provision of early intervention services or other services to your child under Part C of the IDEA. A mediator cannot have a personal or professional interest that conflicts with their objectivity. A mediator is not considered an employee of the state, the district, or a provider of early intervention services solely because he or she is paid by the agency to serve as a mediator.

For more information about mediation, please contact MDE's mediation coordinator at 651-582-8222.

### **FILING A WRITTEN COMPLAINT**

You or the district may file a complaint with MDE. Complaints sent to MDE must:

1. Be in writing and be signed by the individual or organization filing the complaint;
2. Include a statement alleging violations of state or federal special education law or rule related to Part C of the IDEA;

3. State the facts upon which the allegation is based;
4. Include the signature and contact information for the complainant;
5. Include the name and residence of your child, the name of the early intervention service provider, a description of the nature of your child's problem, including facts related to the problem, and a proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to you at the time the complaint is filed, if the alleged violation is related to your specific child; and
6. Allege a violation that occurred not more than one year prior to the date that the complaint is received.

The complaint must be sent to:

Minnesota Department Education  
Division of Compliance and Monitoring  
Due Process Supervisor  
1500 West Highway 36  
Roseville, MN 55113-4266  
Phone: 651.582.8689  
Fax: 651.582.8725

The party filing the complaint, either you or the district, must send a copy of the complaint to the district or early intervention service provider at the same time you or the district files with MDE.

MDE will complete its investigation and issue a written decision within 60 calendar days, unless exceptional circumstances require a longer time or if you and the district agree to extend the timeframe to engage in mediation. You (the parent) or the school district injured-in-fact by the decision may appeal the final complaint decision within 60 days of receiving notice of the final decision.

If a written complaint is received that is also the subject of a due process hearing, or contains multiple issues of which one or more are part of that hearing, the part of the complaint that is being addressed in the due process hearing must be set aside until the conclusion of the hearing.

If an issue is raised in a complaint filed under Part C of the IDEA that has previously been decided in a due process hearing involving the same parties, the hearing decision is binding and the complainant must be informed of this by MDE. Please see the section below for more information about due process hearings.

### **MODEL FORMS**

MDE has developed model forms that can be used to file special education or due process complaints. These forms are not required, but are available as a resource to use when filing a complaint. These model forms are available on MDE's website at: [www.education.state.mn.us](http://www.education.state.mn.us) >

Select School Support > Special Education Programs > Compliance and Monitoring > Due Process Forms.

## **IMPARTIAL DUE PROCESS HEARING**

For due process hearing procedures for children covered under Part C of the IDEA, Minnesota has chosen to adopt the Part B due process hearing procedures set out in the IDEA.

### **Requesting a Due Process Hearing**

You, the district, or a provider of early intervention services may file a due process hearing request with MDE on any matter relating to the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child, or the provision of early intervention services to your child and your family under Part C of the IDEA. Specifically, a due process hearing can be requested regarding a proposal or refusal to initiate or change your child's evaluation, IFSP, educational placement, or to provide FAPE. The due process hearing request must be in writing and must allege a violation of the IDEA that occurred not more than two years before the date that you or the early intervention service provider knew, or should have known, about the alleged action that forms the basis of the due process complaint.

This two-year timeline does not apply if you were prevented from filing a due process complaint because the district or an early intervention service provider misrepresented that it had resolved the problem forming the basis of your due process complaint or the district or early intervention service provider failed to provide you with information that was required under the IDEA.

If you request it or if you or the district file a due process complaint, MDE must inform you of any free or low-cost legal and other relevant services available in your area.

An impartial hearing officer will be assigned to your case. MDE maintains a list of individuals who serve as impartial hearing officers. You may not raise issues in a due process hearing that were not raised in the written complaint.

Within 15 days of receiving notice of your due process complaint, and prior to the due process hearing, the school district must arrange for a resolution meeting with you and the relevant members of your child's IFSP Team who have knowledge of the facts alleged in the due process complaint. If the resolution meeting is not held within 15 days of receiving notice of your due process complaint, you may seek the intervention of a hearing officer to begin the due process hearing timeline.

This resolution meeting must include a representative of the district who has decision-making authority and may NOT include an attorney for the district unless an attorney accompanies you. You and the district determine the relevant members of the IFSP team to attend the resolution meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for you to discuss the due process complaint, and the

facts that form the basis of the due process complaint, so that the school district has the opportunity to resolve the dispute that is the basis for the due process complaint.

The resolution meeting does not need to be held if you and the school district agree in writing to waive the meeting or agree to mediation. If you do not participate in the resolution meeting, your actions will delay the timelines for the resolution process and a due process hearing until the meeting is held.

### **Resolution Period**

If the matter is not resolved within 30 days of receipt of your due process complaint, the hearing timelines begin and a due process hearing may occur. If the school district is unable to obtain your participation in the resolution meeting or mediation after reasonable efforts have been made, and the district has documented its efforts to obtain your participation, and the school district does not agree to waive the resolution meeting or to use mediation, the school district may, at the conclusion of the 30-day period, request that a hearing officer dismiss your due process complaint.

### **Hearing Timeline**

The 30-day hearing timeline starts the day after one of the following events:

1. You and the district agree in writing to waive the resolution meeting;
2. After either mediation or the resolution meeting starts, but before the end of the 30-day period, you and the district both agree in writing that no agreement is possible; or
3. You and the district agree to continue the mediation at the end of the 30-day resolution period, but later, you or the district withdraws from the mediation process.

### **Settlement Agreement**

If you and the district reach a resolution at the resolution meeting, you and the district must execute a legally binding agreement that is signed by both you and a representative of the district that has the authority to bind the district; the agreement is enforceable in any state or district court. You or the district may void such an agreement within three days of the agreement's execution.

### **Loss of Right to a Due Process Hearing**

NOTE: Due to an interpretation of state law by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, if your child changes school districts and you do not request a due process hearing before your child enrolls in a new district, you may lose the right to have a due process hearing about any special education issues that arose in the previous district. You do still have a right to request a due process hearing about special educational issues that may arise in the new district where your child is enrolled.

### Procedures for Initiation of a Due Process Hearing

If you wish to have a hearing, you or your attorney must properly request a due process hearing in writing. All written requests for a due process hearing must include:

1. The name and address of your child;
2. The name of the early intervention service provider serving your child;
3. A description of the nature of the problem, including your view of the facts; and
4. A proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to you at the time of your request for a due process hearing.

Upon receiving a written request for a hearing from you or the district, MDE must give you a copy of the procedural safeguard notice, which includes a description of your rights at a due process hearing. If you or the district request a hearing, the other party must be provided with a copy of the request and submit a copy of the request to MDE.

If you file a hearing request and you did not previously receive a prior written notice from the district about the subject matter of the hearing request, the district must send you a written explanation of why the district proposed or refused to take the action raised in the hearing request within 10 days of receiving the hearing request. This explanation must include a description of other options considered by the IFSP team; why those options were rejected; a description of each evaluation procedure; assessment, record, or report that the district or early intervention service provider used as the basis for the proposed or refused action; and a description of the factors relevant to the district's proposal or refusal decision.

Upon receiving your hearing request, the district must also send you a written response that specifically addresses the issues you raised in the hearing request within 10 days of receiving the request.

The district or early intervention service provider can assert that your hearing request does not meet the requirements under state law. A hearing request is considered sufficient unless the party who received the request notifies the hearing officer and the other party in writing within 15 days of receiving the request that they believe the request does not meet statutory requirements. The hearing officer must determine whether the hearing request meets statutory requirements within five days of receiving the request and immediately notify the parties in writing of that determination.

MDE maintains a list of qualified hearing officers. Upon receipt of a written request for a hearing, MDE will appoint a hearing officer from that list to conduct the hearing. Below are a few of your rights at hearing. This is not a complete list of rights.

Both you and the district have the right to:

1. Be accompanied and advised by counsel and by individuals with special knowledge or training with respect to early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities;
2. Present evidence and confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses;
3. Prohibit the introduction of any evidence at the hearing that has not been disclosed at least five business days before the hearing, including evaluation data and recommendations based on that data that are intended to be used at the hearing; and
4. Receive a written or electronic, verbatim record of the hearing transcript and/or the findings of fact and decisions.

As the parent, you have the right to:

1. Decide whether or not to have your child will be present at the due process hearing. Infants and toddlers do not need to be present at due process hearings, however, you, as the parent, can decide whether or not your infant or toddler will attend the due process hearing;
2. Open the hearing to the public; and
3. Receive a copy of the record or transcript of the hearing and the hearing officer's findings of fact, conclusions of law and decisions made at no cost.

#### Amending a Request for a Due Process Hearing

You or the district may amend your request for a due process hearing only if the other party consents in writing to the amendment and is given an opportunity to resolve the due process complaint through a resolution meeting or if the hearing officer grants permission. The hearing officer may only grant permission not later than five days before the due process hearing begins.

If you or the district files an amended request for a due process hearing, the timelines for the resolution meeting and the resolution period begin again with the filing of the amended request.

#### Disclosure of Additional Evidence before a Hearing and Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference must be held within five business days of the date the commissioner appoints a hearing officer. The hearing officer must initiate the prehearing conference. This conference can be held in person, at a location within the district, or by telephone. The hearing officer must create a verbatim record of the prehearing conference, which is available to you or the district upon request. At the prehearing conference, the hearing officer must accomplish the following: identify the questions that must be answered to resolve the dispute and elimination claims and complaints that are without merit; set a scheduling order for the hearing and additional prehearing activities; determine if the hearing can be disposed of without an evidentiary hearing and, if so; establish the management, control, and location of the hearing to ensure its fair, efficient, and effective disposition.

At least five business days before a hearing, you and the district must disclose to each other all evaluations of your child completed by that date and recommendations based on those

evaluations that are intended to be used at the hearing. A hearing officer may refuse to allow you to introduce any undisclosed evaluations or recommendations at the hearing without consent of the other party.

### The Hearing Decision

The hearing officer must reach a final decision in the due process hearing and give a copy of the decision to each party not later than 45 days after the 30-day period or within the adjusted time periods. The hearing officer is encouraged to accelerate the timeline to 30 days for a child under the age of three whose needs change rapidly and who requires quick resolution of a dispute. The hearing decision timeline may be extended if the hearing officer determines that good cause exists. The hearing officer must conduct oral arguments in a hearing at a time and place that is reasonably convenient to you and your child. The hearing officer's decision whether an infant or toddler was appropriately identified, evaluated, or placed, or whether the infant or toddler with a disability and the family were appropriately provided early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA, must be based on substantive grounds. The hearing decision is final unless you or the district files a civil action. A hearing officer does not have the authority to amend a decision except for clerical and mathematical errors.

### Separate Request for Due Process Hearing

You have the right to file a separate due process complaint on an issue separate from a due process complaint already filed.

## **COMPLAINTS AND HEARINGS DATABASE**

Final decisions on special education complaints and due process hearings are available to the public on the MDE website. MDE maintains a public database called the Complaints, Hearings and Letters Search Engine. Decisions available in the database are redacted and all personally identifiable information is removed. This database is available on the Compliance and Monitoring webpage on the MDE website at:

[www.education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/SpecEdComp/ComplMonitor/index.html](http://www.education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/SpecEdComp/ComplMonitor/index.html).

## **CIVIL ACTION**

When you or the district disagrees with the findings or decisions made by a hearing officer, either party may file a court action and appeal the decision. The action may be brought in federal district court or the state court of appeals. Different standards of review apply in each court. An appeal to the state court of appeals must be made within 60 calendar days of your receipt of the decision. An appeal to federal district court must be made within 90 days of the date of the decision. If you file an appeal, an impartial review of the findings and decision appealed will be made.

## **PLACEMENT DURING A HEARING OR CIVIL ACTION**

During a hearing or court action, unless you and the district agree otherwise, your child must continue to receive the appropriate early intervention services in the setting identified and that you consented to in the IFSP. If the complaint involves an application for initial services under Part C of the IDEA, your child must continue to receive those services that are not in dispute.

## **EXPEDITED DUE PROCESS HEARINGS**

You or a school district may file a written request for an expedited due process hearing.

Expedited hearings must be held within 20 school days of the date the hearing request is filed. The hearing officer must issue a decision within 10 school days after the hearing. A resolution meeting must occur within seven days of receiving the hearing request, unless you and the school district agree in writing to either waive the resolution meeting or use the mediation process. The expedited due process hearing may proceed unless the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties within 15 days of receiving the request.

## **[Appendix D: CTIC Operating Procedures](#)**

River Bend Education District and its member districts have joined together with Mankato school district and other schools in the region, county, and community partners to provide services to students in grades 9-12 through the Mankato Area Community Transition Interagency Committee (CTIC). The mission of CTIC is to promote effective transition services through community collaboration for youth with disabilities and their families preparing them for adult life.

The chair of the committee is Heather Sellner, Mankato West High School Transition Coordinator. To assure that the transitional needs are met for individuals with disabilities, the CTIC works with county/community partners and school districts in the area. Current team members include:

- Parents
- Special Education Teachers
- Transition Coordinators/Work Skills Teachers
- Community Education
- Special Education Administration
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors
- County Social Services
- Community Supported Employment Agencies
- Mental Health Services Providers
- Law and Advocacy Agencies
- Community Recreation and Leisure Organizations
- Post-Secondary Education and Training Institutions

CTIC board members are employees from community agencies who work with youth and adults with disabilities. Agencies assign a representative to be a member on the CTIC board. Also, parents and students are encourage to join the CTIC board through school case managers, transition coordinators, vocational rehabilitation services, and/or county representatives. To become a member of the CTIC board; an interested person would need to contact the board chair.

CTIC meetings are held three times during the school year: Fall, winter, and spring. Meeting agendas typically include updates from members' agencies, CTIC sponsored events updates, and discussions of actions CTIC members can take to continue addressing the transitional needs of individuals. Meeting dates and agendas are determined at the end of each meeting. Meeting times vary depending on the agenda. Standard meetings are held at 3:00 pm. Meetings where a CTIC member's agency is showcased are held in the evening and the board meeting is opened to parents of individuals with disabilities who do not serve on the board. Meeting locations are either at the Workforce Center or Lincoln Community Center.

The Mankato Area CTIC has developed a sub committee to plan and implement events during the school year for students with disabilities and their families. The CTIC events committee organizes a field trip to a two -year community/technical college to tour the campus and talk to staff/students to gain more understanding of post-secondary education options. CTIC also coordinates a parent workshop for parents and students to learn more about specific transition topics. Lastly, the CTIC sponsors a Work Skills Competition; this event is open to juniors and seniors with disabilities. These events are funded through participants' school districts.

### [Appendix E: Summary of CTIC](#)

Mankato Area CTIC Annual Summary 2011-2012

Board Meeting: 3

Events Committee Meetings: 10

College Fall Tour: Riverland Community College – Austin and Albert Lea Campuses on November 17, 2011; 44 students participated plus staff from 5 schools.

Parent Workshop: February 25, 2012 – Canceled. May 1, 2012 rescheduled with PACER – “Transition: Pathway to the Future” and CTIC’s Resource Fair; 12 vendors with 25 parents visiting the Resource Fair, and more attending just the workshop.

Work Skills Competition: May 17, 2012 at South Central College. 59 students competed; plus staff from 6 area schools.

[Appendix F: Operating Procedures for Early Intervention Committee](#)

Region 9 Help Me Grow Interagency Early Intervention Committee (IEIC)

Glossary of terms:

ICC – Governor’s Interagency Coordinating Council

IEIC – Interagency Early Intervention Committee

Regional IEIC – Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC

Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC is to promote family focused, comprehensive services for children with special needs, birth to 6 years 11 months, and their families using an interagency delivery system.

Requirements of the Committee:

Statutory Requirements

Purpose of Interagency Early Intervention Committee: M.S. 125A.30

(a) A school district, group of districts, or special education cooperative, in cooperation with the health and human service agencies located in the county or counties in which the district or cooperative is located, must establish an Interagency Early Intervention Committee for children with disabilities under age five and their families under this section, and for children with disabilities ages three to 22 consistent with the requirements under sections [125A.023](#) and [125A.027](#). Committees must include representatives of local health, education, and county human service agencies, county boards, school boards, early childhood family education programs, Head Start, parents of young children with disabilities under age 12, child care resource and referral agencies, school readiness programs, current service providers, and may also include representatives from other private or public agencies and school nurses. The Committee must elect a chair from among its members and must meet at least quarterly.

(b) The Committee must develop and implement interagency policies and procedures concerning the following ongoing duties:

(1) develop public awareness systems designed to inform potential recipient families, especially parents with premature infants, or infants with other physical risk factors associated with learning or development complications, of available programs and services;

(2) to reduce families' need for future services, and especially parents with premature infants, or infants with other physical risk factors associated with learning or development complications, implement interagency child find systems designed to actively seek out, identify, and refer infants and young children with, or at risk of, disabilities, including a child under the age of three who: (i) is involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect or (ii) is identified as affected by illegal substance abuse, or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure;

- (3) establish and evaluate the identification, referral, child and family assessment systems, procedural safeguard process, and community learning systems to recommend, where necessary, alterations and improvements;
- (4) assure the development of individualized family service plans for all eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities from birth through age two, and their families, and individual education plans and individual service plans when necessary to appropriately serve children with disabilities, age three and older, and their families and recommend assignment of financial responsibilities to the appropriate agencies;
- (5) implement a process for assuring that services involve cooperating agencies at all steps leading to individualized programs;
- (6) facilitate the development of a transitional plan if a service provider is not recommended to continue to provide services;
- (7) identify the current services and funding being provided within the community for children with disabilities under age five and their families;
- (8) develop a plan for the allocation and expenditure of additional state and federal early intervention funds under United States Code, title 20, section 1471 et seq. (Part C, Public Law 108-446) and United States Code, title 20, section 631, et seq. (Chapter I, Public Law 89-313); and
- (9) develop a policy that is consistent with section 13.05, subdivision 9, and federal law to enable a member of an interagency early intervention committee to allow another member access to data classified as not public.

(c) The local Committee shall also:

- (1) participate in needs assessments and program planning activities conducted by local social service, health and education agencies for young children with disabilities and their families; and
- (2) review and comment on the early intervention section of the total special education system (TSES) for the district, the county social service plan, the section or sections of the community health services plan that address needs of and service activities targeted to children with special health care needs, the section on children with special needs in the county child care fund plan, sections in Head Start plans on coordinated planning and services for children with special needs, any relevant portions of early childhood education plans, such as early childhood family education or school readiness, or other applicable coordinated school and community plans for early childhood programs and services, and the section of the maternal and child health special project grants that address needs of and service activities targeted to children with chronic illness and disabilities.

#### Relationships/ Alignment / Priorities

This section serves to clarify the required roles of the state, regional and local entities within the statewide early intervention system. Roles and responsibilities have either changed from how things have been done in the past or they have been clarified to comply with state statute. Clarifying the roles will help to ensure that communication occurs within and between the three entities.

- Lead Agency and State Partners: Minnesota Department of Education is the lead agency for Part C Early Intervention services, with Minnesota Department of Health and Department of Human Services participating as state partners, in delivering a comprehensive and coordinated interagency system. State agency staff may attend and participate in the Region 9 HELP ME GROW IEIC as ex officio members. Minnesota Department of Education will determine a way to establish this across the state (i.e., state staff could be a liaison with each region for attendance at meetings, etc.).
- Governor’s Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC): The Region 9 Help Me Grow designee will attend the ICC meetings and report the business of the Regional IEIC to the ICC in the role of a guest.
- Special Education Administrative Units (SEAU): The Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC will collaborate with SEAUs to examine and distinguish local vs. regional priorities. Funding priorities will be established to help guide funding decisions at the SEAUs.
- Other local agencies: Linkages to local entities (community-based service providers) will be maintained. SEAUs and local agencies will collaborate to maintain established relationships.
- Centers of Excellence for Young Children with Disabilities Project (COE): The Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC will collaborate with the COE to ensure that ongoing training needs are met. The COE will participate in assessing district/local agency needs for training. Districts are strongly encouraged to align training with the COE to avoid duplication of training efforts.

### Operational Considerations

Fiscal Host: The fiscal host for the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC is the South Central Service Cooperative. The agency designated as the fiscal host must be an eligible recipient of federal special education funds and agrees to expend these federal funds consistent with the approved budget and in accordance with the “Statement of Assurances” as signed by the district special education director and superintendent.

Local Primary Agency (LPA): The local primary agency for the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC is the South Central Service Cooperative. The LPA will perform duties consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.31 including: providing oversight of funds received through the annual fund request and providing oversight for data collection efforts.

Maintain documents: Local Primary Agency will maintain IEIC documents. Examples of documents include Operating Procedures, Work Plan, meeting minutes, fiscal host, membership rosters, meeting sign-in sheets, and other documents as identified.

Website posting: Minutes, agendas, etc., will be posted on the Centers of Excellence for Young Children with Disabilities Project website. Meeting minutes, decisions and regional Committee work will be placed on the website to make information available to other stakeholders and interested parties.

Process to change Operating Procedures:

- A. This agreement may be cancelled by any Agency at any time, with or without cause, upon 30 day notice in writing delivered by mail or in person.

- B. Any alteration, variations, modifications, or waivers of provisions of this agreement shall be valid only when they have been reduced to writing, duly signed, and attached to the original of this agreement.
- C. It is understood and agreed that the entire agreement of the Agencies is contained herein and that this agreement supersedes all oral agreements and negotiations between the Agencies relating to the subject matter hereof as well as any previous agreements presently in effect between all Agencies listed relating to the subject matter hereof.

## Demographics

Geographic area served includes the following:

School Districts: Sibley East ISD #2310, G.F.W. ISD #2365, New Ulm ISD #88, Madelia ISD #837, St. James ISD #840, Sleepy Eye ISD #84, Butterfield-Odin ISD #836, Nicollet ISD #507, St. Peter ISD #508, Cleveland ISD #391, LeCenter ISD #392, LeSueur-Henderson ISD #2397, Lake Crystal-Welcome Memorial ISD #2071, St. Clair ISD #75, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown ISD #2143, Waseca Area ISD #829, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton ISD #2835, N.R.H.E.G. ISD #2168, Maple River ISD #2135, United South Central ISD #2134, Blue Earth Area ISD #2860, Mankato Area ISD #77, Fairmont Area ISD #2752, Martin County West ISD #2448, Granada-Huntley- East Chain ISD #2536, Truman ISD #458

Counties: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan

Head Start: Minnesota Valley Action Council Head Start

Membership (see TSES manual p. 9 for membership list)

Recruitment/ selection of members: The current membership list will be reviewed at each meeting. Any vacancies or necessary changes will be filled by having one of the service provider representatives of the Regional IEIC contact the Region 9 Cadre workgroup members for nomination suggestions to be made to the Regional IEIC committee.

Chair and Chair-Elect: Terms of office shall be for one year to match the fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Chair-elect will automatically serve as chair the year following their term as chair-elect.

Meeting Facilitator: The chair/Chair-Elect will be responsible to facilitate the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC meetings.

Other officers:

Secretary will be elected to serve a one year term (July 1 – June 30).

Assurance of area representation: Membership in the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC will be representative of each geographic area and cross sector in nature. Each representative will bring information to and share information from their constituent area and sector.

Removal/replacement: If a member of the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC is not able to continue on the Regional IEIC, the vacancy must be filled by another member from the same representative category.

In the event a Regional IEIC committee member shall miss two of the scheduled committee meetings in a twelve-month period without notifying the IEIC Chair(s), the Chair(s) of the Regional IEIC Committee shall have the right to remove the absent member and the vacancy thereby created shall be filled as noted above.

Conflict of interest: Any individual working for an agency that may benefit from a decision that is made would need to disclose that potential conflict of interest. No member of the Committee may cast a vote on any matter that would provide direct financial or other perceived benefit to that member or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Terms of membership: Membership terms shall be for three years. Terms shall be scattered so that approximately one-third of the committee membership would be elected in any given year. There is no limit to the number of terms any given member may serve.

#### Meetings

Meeting cycle: Quarterly meetings every second Wednesday afternoon of August, October, January, and May. (minimum frequency)

Charter year meeting dates include:

1<sup>st</sup> Q: Summer

2<sup>nd</sup> Q: Fall

3<sup>rd</sup> Q: Winter

4<sup>th</sup> Q: Spring

Meeting notification: Notices, agendas, and supporting documents will be sent out electronically (unless requested otherwise) 2 weeks prior to meetings.

Ground rules: Will be determined as needed by the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC.

Attendance: Two consecutive absences without notifying the LPA would result in dismissal from the Committee.

When members are unable to attend scheduled Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC meetings, they may assign a designee, in writing, to the LPA. The designee shall have the authority to exercise the full privileges of the absent member. Designees must be representative of the same sector as the absent member.

LPA Contact: Loree Brown: [lbrown@mncsc.org](mailto:lbrown@mncsc.org) or 507-389-1425.

Electronic Participation: The South Central Service Cooperative will work with the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC to facilitate electronic connection/attendance to meetings if and when they are desired.

Distribution of meeting minutes to other stakeholders, interested parties: There will be communication mechanisms (e.g., website postings) in place to ensure that decisions and regional committee work are available to all interested parties.

Decision-making process/voting: It will be acceptable to vote on business items electronically as a Regional IEIC if the decision cannot be postponed until the next meeting date. Members may cast a vote in abstention by contacting the Chairperson prior to the meeting in writing.

Absentee Voting: A member who is unable to attend a meeting may vote on any noticed action item by submitting his or her vote in writing to the Chair(s) in advance of the meeting in which the action will be taken. Such vote may be sent by mail, email or facsimile transmission.

Standing agenda format: The new Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC will have the following standing agenda items:

Introductions	Budget Report
Membership Review	Resource Sharing
Information Sharing	Agenda Items for Next Meeting
Old Business	Next Meeting Date and Location
New Business	

Quorum: A quorum necessary to conduct the business of the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC will be 50% or more of the official membership.

Voting: Decisions by the Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC shall, to the extent possible, be made by consensus of members, unless an exception is noted. If there is no consensus, decisions shall be made by a majority vote (51% or more) of the members (or alternates) present at the meeting.

Conflict: When a decision cannot be reached, an outside facilitator could be brought in to assist, if needed.

Reimbursement policies: The new Region 9 Help Me Grow IEIC will pay a stipend of thirty dollars (\$30.00) and mileage at the current federal reimbursement rate to any parent representative who is a voting member of the Regional IEIC and attends a quarterly meeting of the Regional IEIC. If any Regional IEIC member is serving within his/her assigned job duties, expenses will not be reimbursed by the Regional IEIC committee

Standing Sub-Committees:

The committee structure shall be determined by the Regional IEIC. The Regional IEIC Chair(s) shall appoint IEIC members, community representatives, agency liaisons to each committee, considering individual interests and expertise. Other workgroups and task forces shall be designated in order to conduct the business of the Regional IEIC.

The Region 9 Cadre shall serve as a standing workgroup of the Regional IEIC

[Appendix G:](#)

**REGION 9 REGIONAL INTERAGENCY EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE  
2013-2014 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Total Estimated Budget from MDE: \$ 27,590.00

Outreach Printing:	\$ 1,000.00
Parent Stipends (4mtngs x2 parents x \$30.00)	300.00
Parent Travel (4mtngs x 2 parents x 120 miles x \$.555)	500.00
Support for Local Outreach/Child Find Efforts (Child Find/Outreach Support-Targeted Screenings)	21,083.00*
Training for Child Care Providers (Two regional sites - Parent Aware certified)	2,500.00
Indirect Cost (fiscal host costs)	2,207.00

\*This line item will increase by the amount of carry-over dollars from the previous year and be evenly split between the six Special Education Administrative Units within Region 9 to be used for local Child Find and Outreach activities. Letters of Intent will be completed by each SEAU. If less allocation is approved from the State Department, then this line item will be adjusted accordingly.

Budget Approved:

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Appendix H: Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records #515

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515  
Original 1995  
Revised 2010  
Adopted 12/20/11

515 PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF PUPIL RECORDS

[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]

I. PURPOSE

The school district recognizes its responsibility in regard to the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of pupil records and the protection of the privacy rights of students as provided in federal law and state statutes.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The following procedures and policies regarding the protection and privacy of parents and students are adopted by the school district, pursuant to the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, et seq., (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)) 34 C.F.R. Part 99 and consistent with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, and Minn. Rules Parts 1205.0100-1205.2000.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Biometric Record

“Biometric record,” as referred to in “Personally Identifiable,” means a record of one or more measurable biological or behavioral characteristics that can be used for authorized recognition of an individual (e.g., fingerprints, retina and iris patterns, voice prints, DNA sequence, facial characteristics, and handwriting).

B. Dates of Attendance

“Dates of attendance,” as referred to in “Directory Information,” means the period of time during which a student attends or attended a school or schools in the school district, including attendance in person or by paper correspondence, satellite, internet or other electronic communication technologies for students who are not in the classroom, and including the period during which a student is working under a work-study program. The term does not include specific daily records of a student’s attendance at a school or schools in the school district.

C. Directory Information

“Directory information” means information contained in an education record of a student which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to: the student’s name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance,

grade level, enrollment status (i.e., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended. It also includes the name, address, and telephone number of the student's parent(s). Directory information does not include a student's social security number or a student's identification number ("ID") if the ID may be used to access education records without use of one or more factors that authenticate the student's identity such as a personal identification number, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user. It also does not include personally identifiable data which references religion, race, color, social position, or nationality. Data collected from nonpublic school students, other than those who receive shared time educational services, shall not be designated as directory information unless written consent is given by the student's parent or guardian.

[Note: This definition includes all of the types of information specifically referenced by state and federal law as directory information. A school district may choose not to designate some or all of the enumerated information as directory information. A school district also may add to the list of directory information, as long as the added data is not information that generally would be deemed as an invasion of privacy or information that references the student's religion, race, color, social position, or nationality. This is an important policy decision for the local school board which must balance student privacy rights against public disclosure.]

D. Education Records

1. What constitutes "education records." Education records means those records which: (1) are directly related to a student; and (2) are maintained by the school district or by a party acting for the school district.
2. What does not constitute an education record. The term, "education records," does not include:
  - a. Records of instructional personnel which:
    - (1) are in the sole possession of the maker of the record; and
    - (2) are not accessible or revealed to any other individual except a substitute teacher; and
    - (3) are destroyed at the end of the school year.
  - b. Records of a law enforcement unit of the school district, provided education records maintained by the school district are not disclosed to the unit, and the law enforcement records are:
    - (1) maintained separately from education records;
    - (2) maintained solely for law enforcement purposes; and

- (3) disclosed only to law enforcement officials of the same jurisdiction.
- c. Records relating to an individual, including a student, who is employed by the school district which:
  - (1) are made and maintained in the normal course of business;
  - (2) relate exclusively to the individual in that individual's capacity as an employee; and
  - (3) are not available for use for any other purpose.

However, these provisions shall not apply to records relating to an individual in attendance at the school district who is employed as a result of his or her status as a student.

- d. Records relating to an eligible student, or a student attending an institution of post-secondary education, which are:
  - (1) made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in his or her professional or paraprofessional capacity or assisting in that capacity;
  - (2) made, maintained, or used only in connection with the provision of treatment to the student; and
  - (3) disclosed only to individuals providing the treatment; provided that the records can be personally reviewed by a physician or other appropriate professional of the student's choice. For the purpose of this definition, "treatment" does not include remedial educational activities or activities that are a part of the program of instruction within the school district.
- e. Records that only contain information about an individual after he or she is no longer a student at the school district and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student.

E. Eligible Student

"Eligible student" means a student who has attained eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of post-secondary education.

F. Juvenile Justice System

"Juvenile justice system" includes criminal justice agencies and the judiciary when involved in juvenile justice activities.

G. Legitimate Educational Interest

“Legitimate educational interest” includes interest directly related to classroom instruction, teaching, student achievement and progress, discipline of a student, student health and welfare, and the ability to respond to a request for education data. It includes a person’s need to know in order to:

1. Perform an administrative task required in the school or employee’s contract or position description approved by the school board;
2. Perform a supervisory or instructional task directly related to the student’s education; or
3. Perform a service or benefit for the student or the student’s family such as health care, counseling, student job placement, or student financial aid.
4. Perform a task directly related to responding to a request for data.

H. Parent

“Parent” means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent of the student in the absence of a parent or guardian. The school district may presume the parent has the authority to exercise the rights provided herein, unless it has been provided with evidence that there is a state law or court order governing such matters as marriage dissolution, separation or child custody, or a legally binding instrument which provides to the contrary.

I. Personally Identifiable

“Personally identifiable” means that the data or information includes, but is not limited to: (a) a student’s name; (b) the name of the student’s parent or other family member; (c) the address of the student or student’s family; (d) a personal identifier such as the student’s social security number or student number or biometric record; (e) other direct identifiers, such as the student’s date of birth, place of birth, and mother’s maiden name; (f) other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or (g) information requested by a person who the school district reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

J. Record

“Record” means any information or data recorded in any way including, but not limited to, handwriting, print, computer media, video or audio tape, film, microfilm, and microfiche.

K. Responsible Authority

“Responsible authority” means [designate title and actual name of individual].

L. Student

“Student” includes any individual who is or has been in attendance, enrolled, or registered at the school district and regarding whom the school district maintains education records. Student also includes applicants for enrollment or registration at the school district and individuals who receive shared time educational services from the school district.

M. School Official

“School official” includes: (a) a person duly elected to the school board; (b) a person employed by the school board in an administrative, supervisory, instructional, or other professional position; (c) a person employed by the school board as a temporary substitute in a professional position for the period of his or her performance as a substitute; and (d) a person employed by, or under contract to, the school board to perform a special task such as a secretary, a clerk, a public information officer or data practices compliance official, an attorney, or an auditor for the period of his or her performance as an employee or contractor.

[Note: School districts may wish to reference police liaison officers in the definition of a “school official.” Depending on the circumstances of the relationship, this may be added in subpart (d) of the definition or in a new subpart (e). Caution should be used to ensure that police liaison officers are considered “school officials” only when performing duties as a police liaison officer. Consultation with the school district’s legal counsel is recommended.]

N. Summary Data

“Summary data” means statistical records and reports derived from data on individuals but in which individuals are not identified and from which neither their identities nor any other characteristic that could uniquely identify the individual is ascertainable.

O. Other Terms and Phrases

All other terms and phrases shall be defined in accordance with applicable state and federal law or ordinary customary usage.

IV. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION

State law provides that all data collected, created, received, or maintained by a school district are public unless classified by state or federal law as not public or private or confidential. State law classifies all data on individuals maintained by a school district which relates to a student as private data on individuals. This data may not be disclosed to parties other than the parent or eligible student without consent, except pursuant to a valid court order, certain state statutes authorizing access, and the provisions of FERPA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

V. STATEMENT OF RIGHTS

A. Rights of Parents and Eligible Students

Parents and eligible students have the following rights under this policy:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records;
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights;
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that such consent is not required for disclosure pursuant to this policy, state or federal law, or the regulations promulgated thereunder;
4. The right to refuse release of names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions;
5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the federal law and the regulations promulgated thereunder;
6. The right to be informed about rights under the federal law; and
7. The right to obtain a copy of this policy at the location set forth in Section XXI. of this policy.

B. Eligible Students

All rights and protections given parents under this policy transfer to the student when he or she reaches eighteen (18) years of age or enrolls in an institution of post-secondary education. The student then becomes an "eligible student." However, the parents of an eligible student who is also a "dependent student" are entitled to gain access to the education records of such student without first obtaining the consent of the student. In addition, parents of an eligible student may be given access to education records in connection with a health or safety emergency if the disclosure meets the conditions of any provision set forth in 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a).

VI. DISCLOSURE OF EDUCATION RECORDS

A. Consent Required for Disclosure

1. The school district shall obtain a signed and dated written informed consent of the parent of a student or the eligible student before disclosing personally identifiable information from the education records of the student, except as provided herein.
2. The written consent required by this subdivision must be signed and dated by the parent of the student or the eligible student giving the consent and shall include:
  - a. a specification of the records to be disclosed;
  - b. the purpose or purposes of the disclosure;

- c. the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made;
  - d. the consequences of giving informed consent; and
  - e. if appropriate, a termination date for the consent.
3. When a disclosure is made under this subdivision:
- a. if the parent or eligible student so requests, the school district shall provide him or her with a copy of the records disclosed; and
  - b. if the parent of a student who is not an eligible student so requests, the school district shall provide the student with a copy of the records disclosed.
4. A signed and dated written consent may include a record and signature in electronic form that:
- a. identifies and authenticates a particular person as the source of the electronic consent; and
  - b. indicates such person's approval of the information contained in the electronic consent.
5. If the responsible authority seeks an individual's informed consent to the release of private data to an insurer or the authorized representative of an insurer, informed consent shall not be deemed to have been given unless the statement is:
- a. in plain language;
  - b. dated;
  - c. specific in designating the particular persons or agencies the data subject is authorizing to disclose information about the data subject;
  - d. specific as to the nature of the information the subject is authorizing to be disclosed;
  - e. specific as to the persons or agencies to whom the subject is authorizing information to be disclosed;
  - f. specific as to the purpose or purposes for which the information may be used by any of the parties named in Clause e. above, both at the time of the disclosure and at any time in the future; and
  - g. specific as to its expiration date which should be within a reasonable time, not to exceed one year except in the case of authorizations given in connection with applications for: (i) life insurance or noncancellable or

guaranteed renewable health insurance and identified as such, two years after the date of the policy, or (ii) medical assistance under Minn. Stat. Ch. 256B or Minnesota Care under Minn. Stat. Ch. 256L, which shall be ongoing during all terms of eligibility, for individualized education program health-related services provided by a school district that are subject to third party reimbursement.

6. Eligible Student Consent

Whenever a student has attained eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of post-secondary education, the rights accorded to and the consent required of the parent of the student shall thereafter only be accorded to and required of the eligible student, except as provided in Section V. of this policy.

B. Prior Consent for Disclosure Not Required

The school district may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student without the written consent of the parent of the student or the eligible student unless otherwise provided herein, if the disclosure is:

1. To other school officials, including teachers, within the school district whom the school district determines have a legitimate educational interest in such records;
2. To a contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other party to whom the school district has outsourced institutional services or functions provided that the outside party:
  - a. performs an institutional service or function for which the school district would otherwise use employees;
  - b. is under the direct control of the school district with respect to the use and maintenance of education records; and
  - c. will not disclose the information to any other party without the prior consent of the parent or eligible student and uses the information only for the purposes for which the disclosure was made.
3. To officials of other schools, school districts, or post-secondary educational institutions in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. The records shall include information about disciplinary action taken as a result of any incident in which the student possessed or used a dangerous weapon, and with proper annual notice (see Section XIX.), suspension and expulsion information pursuant to section 7165 of the federal No Child Left Behind Act [insert the following if the school district has a policy regarding Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students] and, if applicable, data regarding a student's history of violent behavior. The records also shall include a copy of any probable cause notice or any disposition or court order under Minn. Stat. § 260B.171, unless the data are required to be destroyed under Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 7(c) or § 121A.75. On request, the school district will provide the parent or eligible student

with a copy of the education records which have been transferred and provide an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of those records in accordance with Section XV. of this policy;

4. To authorized representatives of the Comptroller General of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, or the Commissioner of the State Department of Education or his or her representative, subject to the conditions relative to such disclosure provided under federal law;
5. In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or has received, if the information is necessary for such purposes as to:
  - a. determine eligibility for the aid;
  - b. determine the amount of the aid;
  - c. determine conditions for the aid; or
  - d. enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.

“Financial aid” for purposes of this provision means a payment of funds provided to an individual or a payment in kind of tangible or intangible property to the individual that is conditioned on the individual’s attendance at an educational agency or institution;

6. To state and local officials or authorities to whom such information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed pursuant to state statute adopted:
  - a. before November 19, 1974, if the allowed reporting or disclosure concerns the juvenile justice system and such system’s ability to effectively serve the student whose records are released; or
  - b. after November 19, 1974, if the reporting or disclosure allowed by state statute concerns the juvenile justice system and the system’s ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records are released, provided the officials and authorities to whom the records are disclosed certify in writing to the school district that the data will not be disclosed to any other party, except as provided by state law, without the prior written consent of the parent of the student. At a minimum, the school district shall disclose the following information to the juvenile justice system under this paragraph: a student’s full name, home address, telephone number, and date of birth; a student’s school schedule, attendance record, and photographs, if any; and parents’ names, home addresses, and telephone numbers.
7. To organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction; provided that

the studies are conducted in a manner which does not permit the personal identification of parents or students by individuals other than representatives of the organization, the information is destroyed when no longer needed for the purposes for which the study was conducted, and the school district enters into a written agreement with the organization that: (a) specifies the purpose, scope, and duration of the study or studies and the information to be disclosed; (b) requires the organization to use personally identifiable information from education records only to meet the purpose or purposes of the study as stated in the written agreement; (c) requires the organization to conduct the study in a manner that does not permit personal identification of parents and students by anyone other than representatives of the organization with legitimate interests; and (d) requires the organization to destroy or return to the school district all personally identifiable information when information is no longer needed for the purposes for which the study was conducted and specifies the time period in which the information must be returned or destroyed. For purposes of this provision, the term, “organizations,” includes, but is not limited to, federal, state, and local agencies and independent organizations. In the event the Department of Education determines that a third party outside of the school district to whom information is disclosed violates this provision, the school district may not allow that third party access to personally identifiable information from education records for at least five (5) years;

8. To accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions;
9. To parents of a student eighteen (18) years of age or older if the student is a dependent of the parents for income tax purposes;
10. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, provided, however, that the school district makes a reasonable effort to notify the parent or eligible student of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance therewith so that the parent or eligible student may seek protective action, unless the disclosure is in compliance with a federal grand jury subpoena, or any other subpoena issued for law enforcement purposes, and the court or other issuing agency has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be disclosed, or the disclosure is in compliance with an ex parte court order obtained by the United States Attorney General (or designee not lower than an Assistant Attorney General) concerning investigations or prosecutions of an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) or an act of domestic or international terrorism as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2331. If the school district initiates legal action against a parent or student, it may disclose to the court, without a court order or subpoena, the education records of the student that are relevant for the school district to proceed with the legal action as plaintiff. Also, if a parent or eligible student initiates a legal action against the school district, the school district may disclose to the court, without a court order or subpoena, the student’s education records that are relevant for the school district to defend itself;
11. To appropriate parties, including parents of an eligible student, in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health, including the mental health, or safety of the student or other individuals. The

decision is to be based upon information available at the time the threat occurs that indicates that there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals. In making a determination whether to disclose information under this section, the school district may take into account the totality of the circumstances pertaining to a threat and may disclose information from education records to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other students. A record of this disclosure must be maintained pursuant to Section XIII.E. of this policy. In addition, an educational agency or institution may include in the education records of a student appropriate information concerning disciplinary action taken against the student for conduct that posed a significant risk to the safety or well-being of that student, other students, or other members of the school community. This information may be disclosed to teachers and school officials within the school district and/or teachers and school officials in other schools who have legitimate educational interests in the behavior of the student;

12. To the juvenile justice system if information about the behavior of a student who poses a risk of harm is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals;
13. Information the school district has designated as “directory information” pursuant to Section VII. of this policy;
14. To military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions pursuant to Section XI. of this policy;
15. To the parent of a student who is not an eligible student or to the student himself or herself;
16. To appropriate health authorities to the extent necessary to administer immunization programs and for bona fide epidemiologic investigations which the commissioner of health determines are necessary to prevent disease or disability to individuals in the public educational agency or institution in which the investigation is being conducted;
17. To volunteers who are determined to have a legitimate educational interest in the data and who are conducting activities and events sponsored by or endorsed by the educational agency or institution for students or former students;
18. To the juvenile justice system, on written request that certifies that the information will not be disclosed to any other person except as authorized by law without the written consent of the parent of the student:
  - a. the following information about a student must be disclosed: a student’s full name, home address, telephone number, date of birth; a student’s school schedule, daily attendance record, and photographs, if any; and any parents’ names, home addresses, and telephone numbers;
  - b. the existence of the following information about a student, not the actual

data or other information contained in the student's education record, may be disclosed provided that a request for access must be submitted on the statutory form and it must contain an explanation of why access to the information is necessary to serve the student: (1) use of a controlled substance, alcohol, or tobacco; (2) assaultive or threatening conduct that could result in dismissal from school under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; (3) possession or use of weapons or look-alike weapons; (4) theft; or (5) vandalism or other damage to property. Prior to releasing this information, the principal or chief administrative officer of a school who receives such a request must, to the extent permitted by federal law, notify the student's parent or guardian by certified mail of the request to disclose information. If the student's parent or guardian notifies the school official of an objection to the disclosure within ten (10) days of receiving certified notice, the school official must not disclose the information and instead must inform the requesting member of the juvenile justice system of the objection. If no objection from the parent or guardian is received within fourteen (14) days, the school official must respond to the request for information.

The written requests of the juvenile justice system member(s), as well as a record of any release, must be maintained in the student's file;

19. To the principal where the student attends and to any counselor directly supervising or reporting on the behavior or progress of the student if it is information from a disposition order received by a superintendent under Minn. Stat. § 260B.171, Subd. 3. The principal must notify the counselor immediately and must place the disposition order in the student's permanent education record. The principal also must notify immediately any teacher or administrator who directly supervises or reports on the behavior or progress of the student whom the principal believes needs the information to work with the student in an appropriate manner, to avoid being needlessly vulnerable, or to protect other persons from needless vulnerability. The principal may also notify other school district employees, substitutes, and volunteers who are in direct contact with the student if the principal determines that these individual need the information to work with the student in an appropriate manner, to avoid being needlessly vulnerable, or to protect other persons from needless vulnerability. Such notices from the principal must identify the student, outline the offense, and describe any conditions of probation about which the school must provide information if this information is provided in the disposition order. Disposition order information received is private educational data received for the limited purpose of serving the educational needs of the student and protecting students and staff. The information may not be further disseminated by the counselor, teacher, administrator, staff member, substitute, or volunteer except as necessary to serve the student, to protect students and staff, or as otherwise required by law, and only to the student or the student's parent or guardian;
20. To the principal where the student attends if it is information from a peace officer's record of children received by a superintendent under Minn. Stat. § 260B.171, Subd. 5. The principal must place the information in the student's

education record. The principal also must notify immediately any teacher, counselor, or administrator directly supervising the student whom the principal believes needs the information to work with the student in an appropriate manner, to avoid being needlessly vulnerable, or to protect other persons from needless vulnerability. The principal may also notify other district employees, substitutes, and volunteers who are in direct contact with the student if the principal determines that these individuals need the information to work with the student in an appropriate manner, to avoid being needlessly vulnerable, or to protect other persons from needless vulnerability. Such notices from the principal must identify the student and describe the alleged offense if this information is provided in the peace officer's notice. Peace officer's record information received is private educational data received for the limited purpose of serving the educational needs of the student and protecting students and staff. The information must not be further disseminated by the counselor, teacher administrator, staff member, substitute, or volunteer except to communicate with the student or the student's parent or guardian as necessary to serve the student, to protect students and staff, or as otherwise required by law.

The principal must delete the peace officer's record from the student's education record, destroy the data, and make reasonable efforts to notify any teacher, counselor, staff member, administrator, substitute, or volunteer who received information from the peace officer's record if the county attorney determines not to proceed with a petition or directs the student into a diversion or mediation program or if a juvenile court makes a decision on a petition and the county attorney or juvenile court notifies the superintendent of such action; or

21. Information provided to the school district concerning sex offenders and other individuals required to register in accordance with the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14071, and applicable federal guidelines.

C. Nonpublic School Students

The school district may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a nonpublic school student, other than a student who receives shared time educational services, without the written consent of the parent of the student or the eligible student unless otherwise provided herein, if the disclosure is:

1. Pursuant to a valid court order;
2. Pursuant to a statute specifically authorizing access to the private data; or
3. To appropriate health authorities to the extent necessary to administer immunization programs and for bona fide epidemiological investigations which the commissioner of health determines are necessary to prevent disease or disability to individuals in the public educational agency or institution in which the investigation is being conducted.

VII. RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

A. Classification

Directory information is public except as provided herein.

B. Former Students

Unless a former student validly opted out of the release of directory information while the student was in attendance and has not rescinded the opt out request at any time, the school district may disclose directory information from the education records generated by it regarding the former student without meeting the requirements of Paragraph C. of this section. In addition, under an explicit exclusion from the definition of an “education record,” the school district may release records that only contain information about an individual obtained after he or she is no longer a student at the school district and that are not directly related to the individual’s attendance as a student (e.g., a student’s activities as an alumnus of the school district).

C. Present Students and Parents

The school district may disclose directory information from the education records of a student and information regarding parents without prior written consent of the parent of the student or eligible student, except as provided herein. Prior to such disclosure the school district shall:

1. Annually give public notice by any means that are reasonably likely to inform the parents and eligible students of:
  - a. the types of personally identifiable information regarding students and/or parents that the school district has designated as directory information;
  - b. the parent’s or eligible student’s right to refuse to let the school district designate any or all of those types of information about the student and/or the parent as directory information; and
  - c. the period of time in which a parent or eligible student has to notify the school district in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student and/or the parent designated as directory information.
2. Allow a reasonable period of time after such notice has been given for a parent or eligible student to inform the school district in writing that any or all of the information so designated should not be disclosed without the parent’s or eligible student’s prior written consent, except as provided in Section VI. of this policy.
3. A parent or eligible student may not opt out of the directory information disclosures to prevent the school district from disclosing or requiring the student to disclose the student’s name, identifier, or school district e-mail address in a class in which the student is enrolled.

4. The school district shall not disclose or confirm directory information without meeting the written consent requirements contained in Section VI.A. of this policy if a student's social security number or other non-directory information is used alone or in combination with other data elements to identify or help identify the student or the student's records.

D. Procedure for Obtaining Nondisclosure of Directory Information

The parent's or eligible student's written notice shall be directed to the responsible authority and shall include the following:

1. Name of the student and/or parent, as appropriate;
2. Home address;
3. School presently attended by student;
4. Parent's legal relationship to student, if applicable; and
5. Specific categories of directory information to be made not public without the parent's or eligible student's prior written consent, which shall only be applicable for that school year.

E. Duration

The designation of any information as directory information about a student or parents will remain in effect for the remainder of the school year unless the parent or eligible student provides the written notifications provided herein.

VIII. DISCLOSURE OF PRIVATE RECORDS

A. Private Records

For the purposes herein, education records are records which are classified as private data on individuals by state law and which are accessible only to the student who is the subject of the data and the student's parent if the student is not an eligible student. The school district may not disclose private records or their contents except as summary data, or except as provided in Section VI. of this policy, without the prior written consent of the parent or the eligible student. The school district will use reasonable methods to identify and authenticate the identity of parents, students, school officials, and any other party to whom personally identifiable information from education records is disclosed.

B. Private Records Not Accessible to Parent

In certain cases state law intends, and clearly provides, that certain information contained in the education records of the school district pertaining to a student be accessible to the student alone, and to the parent only under special circumstances, if at all.

1. The responsible authority may deny access to private data by a parent when a

minor student who is the subject of that data requests that the responsible authority deny such access. The minor student's request must be submitted in writing setting forth the reasons for denying access to the parent and must be signed by the minor. Upon receipt of such request the responsible authority shall determine if honoring the request to deny the parent access would be in the best interest of the minor data subject. In making this determination the responsible authority shall consider the following factors:

- a. whether the minor is of sufficient age and maturity to be able to explain the reasons for and understand the consequences of the request to deny access;
- b. whether the personal situation of the minor is such that denying parental access may protect the minor data subject from physical or emotional harm;
- c. whether there are grounds for believing that the minor data subject's reasons for precluding parental access are reasonably accurate;
- d. whether the data in question is of such a nature that disclosure of it to the parent may lead to physical or emotional harm to the minor data subject; and
- e. whether the data concerns medical, dental or other health services provided pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 144.341-144.347, in which case the data may be released only if the failure to inform the parent would seriously jeopardize the health of the minor.

C. Private Records Not Accessible to Student

Students shall not be entitled to access to private data concerning financial records and statements of the student's parent or any information contained therein.

IX. DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

A. Confidential Records

Confidential records are those records and data contained therein which are made not public by state or federal law, and which are inaccessible to the student and the student's parents or to an eligible student.

B. Reports Under the Maltreatment of Minors Reporting Act

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 626.556, reports pertaining to a neglected and/or physically and/or sexually abused child shall be accessible only to the appropriate welfare and law enforcement agencies. In respect to other parties, such data shall be confidential and will not be made available to the parent or the subject individual by the school district. The subject individual, however, may obtain a copy of the report from either the local welfare agency, county sheriff, or the local police department subject to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 626.556, Subd. 11.

C. Investigative Data

Data collected by the school district as part of an active investigation undertaken for the purpose of the commencement or defense of pending civil legal action, or which are retained in anticipation of a pending civil legal action are classified as protected nonpublic data in the case of data not on individuals, and confidential data in the case of data on individuals.

1. The school district may make any data classified as protected non-public or confidential pursuant to this subdivision accessible to any person, agency, or the public if the school district determines that such access will aid the law enforcement process, promote public health or safety, or dispel widespread rumor or unrest.
2. A complainant has access to a statement he or she provided to the school district.
3. Parents or eligible students may have access to investigative data of which the student is the subject, but only to the extent the data is not inextricably intertwined with data about other school district students, school district employees, and/or attorney data as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.393.
4. Once a civil investigation becomes inactive, civil investigative data becomes public unless the release of the data would jeopardize another pending civil legal action, except for those portions of such data that are classified as not public data under state or federal law. Any civil investigative data presented as evidence in court or made part of a court record shall be public. For purposes of this provision, a civil investigation becomes inactive upon the occurrence of any of the following events:
  - a. a decision by the school district, or by the chief attorney for the school district, not to pursue the civil legal action. However, such investigation may subsequently become active if the school district or its attorney decides to renew the civil legal action;
  - b. the expiration of the time to file a complaint under the statute of limitations or agreement applicable to the civil legal action; or
  - c. the exhaustion or expiration of rights of appeal by either party to the civil legal action.
5. A “pending civil legal action” for purposes of this subdivision is defined as including, but not limited to, judicial, administrative, or arbitration proceedings.

D. Chemical Abuse Records

To the extent the school district maintains records of the identity, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of any student which are maintained in connection with the performance of any drug abuse prevention function conducted, regulated, or directly or indirectly assisted by any department or agency of the United States, such records are classified as confidential

and shall be disclosed only for the purposes and under the circumstances expressly authorized by law.

X. DISCLOSURE OF SCHOOL RECORDS PRIOR TO EXCLUSION OR EXPULSION HEARING

At a reasonable time prior to any exclusion or expulsion hearing, the student and the student's parent or guardian or representative shall be given access to all school district records pertaining to the student, including any tests or reports upon which the action proposed by the school district may be based, pursuant to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. § 121A.40, et seq.

XI. DISCLOSURE OF DATA TO MILITARY RECRUITING OFFICERS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

A. The school district will release the names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions within sixty (60) days after the date of the request unless a parent or eligible student has refused in writing to release this data pursuant to Paragraph C. below.

B. Data released to military recruiting officers under this provision:

1. may be used only for the purpose of providing information to students about military service, state and federal veterans' education benefits, and other career and educational opportunities provided by the military; and
2. cannot be further disseminated to any other person except personnel of the recruiting services of the armed forces.

C. A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse the release of the name, address, or home telephone number to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions. To refuse the release of the above information to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions, a parent or eligible student must notify the responsible authority [designate title of individual, i.e., building principal] in writing by [date] each year. The written request must include the following information:

1. Name of student and parent, as appropriate;
2. Home address;
3. Student's grade level;
4. School presently attended by student;
5. Parent's legal relationship to student, if applicable;
6. Specific category or categories of information which are not to be released to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions; and
7. Specific category or categories of information which are not to be released to the

public, including military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions.

- D. Annually, the school district will provide public notice by any means that are reasonably likely to inform the parents and eligible students of their rights to refuse to release the names, addresses, and home phone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 without prior consent.
- E. A parent or eligible student's refusal to release the above information to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions does not affect the school district's release of directory information to the rest of the public, which includes military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions. In order to make any directory information about a student private, the procedures contained in Section VII. of this policy also must be followed. Accordingly, to the extent the school district has designated the name, address, phone number, and grade level of students as directory information, absent a request from a parent or eligible student not to release such data, this information will be public data and accessible to members of the public, including military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions.

## XII. LIMITS ON REDISCLOSURE

### A. Redisclosure

Consistent with the requirements herein, the school district may only disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student on the condition that the party to whom the information is to be disclosed will not disclose the information to any other party without the prior written consent of the parent of the student or the eligible student, except that the officers, employees, and agents of any party receiving personally identifiable information under this section may use the information, but only for the purposes for which the disclosure was made.

### B. Redisclosure Not Prohibited

- 1. Subdivision A. of this section does not prevent the school district from disclosing personally identifiable information under Section VI. of this policy with the understanding that the party receiving the information may make further disclosures of the information on behalf of the school district provided:
  - a. The disclosures meet the requirements of Section VI. of this policy; and
  - b. The school district has complied with the record-keeping requirements of Section XIII. of this policy.
- 2. Subdivision A. of this section does not apply to disclosures made pursuant to court orders or lawfully issued subpoenas or litigation, to disclosures of directory information, to disclosures to a parent or student or to parents of dependent students, or to disclosures concerning sex offenders and other individuals required to register under 42 U.S.C. § 14071. However, the school district must provide the notification required in Section XII.D. of this policy if a redisclosure is made based

upon a court order or lawfully issued subpoena.

C. Classification of Disclosed Data

The information disclosed shall retain the same classification in the hands of the party receiving it as it had in the hands of the school district.

D. Notification

The school district shall, except for disclosures made pursuant to court orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosure of directory information under Section VII. of this policy, disclosures to a parent or student, disclosures to parents of a dependent student, or to disclosures concerning sex offenders and other individuals required to register under 42 U.S.C. § 14071, inform the party to whom a disclosure is made of the requirements set forth in this section. In the event that the Family Policy Compliance Office determines that a third party outside of the school district improperly rediscloses personally identifiable information from education records or fails to provide notification required under this section of this policy, the school district may not allow that third party access to personally identifiable information from education records for at least five (5) years.

XIII. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY; RECORD SECURITY; AND RECORD KEEPING

A. Responsible Authority

The responsible authority shall be responsible for the maintenance and security of student records.

B. Record Security

The principal of each school subject to the supervision and control of the responsible authority shall be the records manager of the school, and shall have the duty of maintaining and securing the privacy and/or confidentiality of student records.

C. Plan for Securing Student Records

The building principal shall submit to the responsible authority a written plan for securing students records by September 1 of each school year. The written plan shall contain the following information:

1. A description of records maintained;
2. Titles and addresses of person(s) responsible for the security of student records;
3. Location of student records, by category, in the buildings;
4. Means of securing student records; and
5. Procedures for access and disclosure.

D. Review of Written Plan for Securing Student Records

The responsible authority shall review the plans submitted pursuant to Paragraph C. of this section for compliance with the law, this policy and the various administrative policies of the school district. The responsible authority shall then promulgate a chart incorporating the provisions of Paragraph C. which shall be attached to and become a part of this policy.

E. Record Keeping

1. The principal shall, for each request for and each disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records of a student, maintain a record with the education records of the student which indicates:
  - a. the parties who have requested or received personally identifiable information from the education records of the student;
  - b. the legitimate interests these parties had in requesting or obtaining the information; and
  - c. the names of the state and local educational authorities and federal officials and agencies listed in Section VI.B.4. of this policy that may make further disclosures of personally identifiable information from the student's education records without consent.
2. In the event the school district discloses personally identifiable information from an education record of a student pursuant to Section XII.B. of this policy, the record of disclosure required under this section shall also include:
  - a. the names of the additional parties to which the receiving party may disclose the information on behalf of the school district;
  - b. the legitimate interests under Section VI. of this policy which each of the additional parties has in requesting or obtaining the information; and
  - c. a copy of the record of further disclosures maintained by a state or local educational authority or federal official or agency listed in Section VI.B.4. of this policy in accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 99.32 and to whom the school district disclosed information from an education record. The school district shall request a copy of the record of further disclosures from a state or local educational authority or federal official or agency to whom education records were disclosed upon a request from a parent or eligible student to review the record of requests for disclosure.
3. Section XIII.E.1. does not apply to requests by or disclosure to a parent of a student or an eligible student, disclosures pursuant to the written consent of a parent of a student or an eligible student, requests by or disclosures to other school officials under Section VI.B.1. of this policy, to requests for disclosures of directory information under Section VII. of this policy, or to a party seeking or receiving the records as directed by a federal grand jury or other law enforcement

subpoena and the issuing court or agency has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena or the information provided in response to the subpoena not be disclosed or as directed by an ex parte court order obtained by the United States Attorney General (or designee not lower than an Assistant Attorney General) concerning investigations or prosecutions of an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) or an act of domestic or international terrorism.

4. The record of requests of disclosures may be inspected by:
  - a. the parent of the student or the eligible student;
  - b. the school official or his or her assistants who are responsible for the custody of the records; and
  - c. the parties authorized by law to audit the record-keeping procedures of the school district.
5. The school district shall record the following information when it discloses personally identifiable information from education records under the health or safety emergency exception:
  - a. the articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individual that formed the basis for the disclosure; and
  - b. the parties to whom the school district disclosed the information.
6. The record of requests and disclosures shall be maintained with the education records of the student as long as the school district maintains the student's education records.

#### XIV. RIGHT TO INSPECT AND REVIEW EDUCATION RECORDS

A. Parent of a Student, an Eligible Student or the Parent of an Eligible Student Who is Also a Dependent Student

The school district shall permit the parent of a student, an eligible student, or the parent of an eligible student who is also a dependent student who is or has been in attendance in the school district to inspect or review the education records of the student, except those records which are made confidential by state or federal law or as otherwise provided in Section VIII. of this policy.

B. Response to Request for Access

The school district shall respond to any request pursuant to Subdivision A. of this section immediately, if possible, or within ten (10) days of the date of the request, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

C. Right to Inspect and Review

The right to inspect and review education records under Subdivision A. of this section includes:

1. The right to a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of records; and
2. If circumstances effectively prevent the parent or eligible student from exercising the right to inspect and review the education records, the school district shall provide the parent or eligible student with a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or eligible student to inspect and review the requested records.
3. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting the frequency of inspection of the education records of a student with a disability by the student's parent or guardian or by the student upon the student reaching the age of majority.

D. Form of Request

Parents or eligible students shall submit to the school district a written request to inspect education records which identify as precisely as possible the record or records he or she wishes to inspect.

E. Collection of Student Records

If a student's education records are maintained in more than one location, the responsible authority may collect copies of the records or the records themselves from the various locations so they may be inspected at one site. However, if the parent or eligible student wishes to inspect these records where they are maintained, the school district shall attempt to accommodate those wishes. The parent or eligible student shall be notified of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

F. Records Containing Information on More Than One Student

If the education records of a student contain information on more than one student, the parent or eligible student may inspect and review or be informed of only the specific information which pertains to that student.

G. Authority to Inspect or Review

The school district may presume that either parent of the student has authority to inspect or review the education records of a student unless the school district has been provided with evidence that there is a legally binding instrument or a state law or court order governing such matters as marriage dissolution, separation, or custody which provides to the contrary.

H. Fees for Copies of Records

1. The school district shall charge a reasonable fee for providing photocopies or printed copies of records unless printing a copy is the only method to provide for

the inspection of data. In determining the amount of the reasonable fee, the school district shall consider the following:

- a. the cost of materials, including paper, used to provide the copies;
  - b. the cost of the labor required to prepare the copies;
  - c. any schedule of standard copying charges established by the school district in its normal course of operations;
  - d. any special costs necessary to produce such copies from machine based record-keeping systems, including but not limited to computers and microfilm systems; and
  - e. mailing costs.
2. If 100 or fewer pages of black and white, letter or legal size paper copies are requested, actual costs shall not be used, and, instead, the charge shall be no more than 25 cents for each page copied.
  3. The cost of providing copies shall be borne by the parent or eligible student.
  4. The responsible authority, however, may not impose a fee for a copy of an education record made for a parent or eligible student if doing so would effectively prevent or, in the case of a student with a disability, impair the parent or eligible student from exercising their right to inspect or review the student's education records.

## XV. REQUEST TO AMEND RECORDS; PROCEDURES TO CHALLENGE DATA

### A. Request to Amend Education Records

The parent of a student or an eligible student who believes that information contained in the education records of the student is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of the student may request that the school district amend those records.

1. The request shall be in writing, shall identify the item the requestor believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student, shall state the reason for this belief, and shall specify the correction the requestor wishes the school district to make. The request shall be signed and dated by the requestor.
2. The school district shall decide whether to amend the education records of the student in accordance with the request within thirty (30) days after receiving the request.
3. If the school district decides to refuse to amend the education records of the student in accordance with the request, it shall inform the parent of the student or the eligible student of the refusal and advise the parent or eligible student of the

right to a hearing under Subdivision B. of this section.

B. Right to a Hearing

If the school district refuses to amend the education records of a student, the school district, on request, shall provide an opportunity for a hearing in order to challenge the content of the student's education records to ensure that information in the education records of the student is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student. A hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Subdivision C. of this section.

1. If, as a result of the hearing, the school district decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student, it shall amend the education records of the student accordingly and so inform the parent of the student or the eligible student in writing.
2. If, as a result of the hearing, the school district decides that the information is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student, it shall inform the parent or eligible student of the right to place a statement in the record commenting on the contested information in the record or stating why he or she disagrees with the decision of the school district, or both.
3. Any statement placed in the education records of the student under Subdivision B. of this section shall:
  - a. be maintained by the school district as part of the education records of the student so long as the record or contested portion thereof is maintained by the school district; and
  - b. if the education records of the student or the contested portion thereof is disclosed by the school district to any party, the explanation shall also be disclosed to that party.

C. Conduct of Hearing

1. The hearing shall be held within a reasonable period of time after the school district has received the request, and the parent of the student or the eligible student shall be given notice of the date, place, and time reasonably in advance of the hearing.
2. The hearing may be conducted by any individual, including an official of the school district who does not have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing. The school board attorney shall be in attendance to present the school board's position and advise the designated hearing officer on legal and evidentiary matters.
3. The parent of the student or eligible student shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity for hearing to present evidence relative to the issues raised under Subdivisions A. and B. of this section and may be assisted or represented by individuals of his or her choice at his or her own expense, including an attorney.

4. The school district shall make a decision in writing within a reasonable period of time after the conclusion of the hearing. The decision shall be based solely on evidence presented at the hearing and shall include a summary of evidence and reasons for the decision.

D. Appeal

The final decision of the designated hearing officer may be appealed in accordance with the applicable provisions of Minn. Stat. Ch. 14 relating to contested cases.

XVI. PROBLEMS ACCESSING DATA

- A. The data practices compliance official is the designated employee to whom persons may direct questions or concerns regarding problems in obtaining access to data or other data practices problems.
- B. Data practices compliance official means [designate title and actual name of individual].
- C. Any request by an individual with a disability for reasonable modifications of the school district's policies or procedures for purposes of accessing records shall be made to the data practices compliance official.

XVII. COMPLAINTS FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH FERPA

A. Where to File Complaints

Complaints regarding alleged violations of rights accorded parents and eligible students by FERPA, and the rules promulgated thereunder, shall be submitted in writing to the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.

B. Content of Complaint

A complaint filed pursuant to this section must contain specific allegations of fact giving reasonable cause to believe that a violation of FERPA and the rules promulgated thereunder has occurred.

XVIII. WAIVER

A parent or eligible student may waive any of his or her rights provided herein pursuant to FERPA. A waiver shall not be valid unless in writing and signed by the parent or eligible student. The school district may not require such a waiver.

XIX. ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS

A. Contents of Notice

The school district shall give parents of students currently in attendance and eligible

students currently in attendance annual notice by such means as are reasonably likely to inform the parents and eligible students of the following:

1. That the parent or eligible student has a right to inspect and review the student's education records and the procedure for inspecting and reviewing education records;
2. That the parent or eligible student has a right to seek amendment of the student's education records to ensure that those records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights and the procedure for requesting amendment of records;
3. That the parent or eligible student has a right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that federal and state law and the regulations promulgated thereunder authorize disclosure without consent;
4. That the parent or eligible student has a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged failure by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA and the rules promulgated thereunder;
5. The criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest for purposes of disclosing education records to other school officials whom the school district has determined to have legitimate educational interests; and
6. That the school district forwards education records on request to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer and that such records may include suspension and expulsion records pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act and, if applicable, a student's history of violent behavior.

B. Notification to Parents of Students Having a Primary Home Language Other Than English

The school district shall provide for the need to effectively notify parents of students identified as having a primary or home language other than English.

C. Notification to Parents or Eligible Students Who are Disabled

The school district shall provide for the need to effectively notify parents or eligible students identified as disabled.

XX. DESTRUCTION AND RETENTION OF RECORDS

Destruction and retention of records by the school district shall be controlled by state and federal law.

XXI. COPIES OF POLICY

Copies of this policy may be obtained by parents and eligible students at the office of the superintendent.

- Legal References:
- Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
  - Minn. Stat. Ch. 14 (Administrative Procedures Act)
  - Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (The Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.75 (Sharing Disposition Order and Peace Officer Records)
  - Minn. Stat. § 144.341-144.347 (Consent of Minors for Health Services)
  - Minn. Stat. § 260B.171, Subds. 3 and 5 (Disposition Order and Peace Officer Records of Children)
  - Minn. Stat. § 363A.42 (Public Records; Accessibility)
  - Minn. Stat. § 626.556 (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)
  - Minn. Rules Parts 1205.0100-1205.2000 (Data Practices)
  - 10 U.S.C. § 503(b) and (c) (Enlistments: Recruiting Campaigns; Compilation of Directory Information)
  - 18 U.S.C. § 2331 (Definitions)
  - 18 U.S.C. § 2332b (Acts of Terrorism Transcending National Boundaries)
  - 20 U.S.C. § 1232g et seq. (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
  - 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq. (No Child Left Behind)
  - 20 U.S.C. § 7908 (Armed Forces Recruiting Information)
  - 26 U.S.C. §§ 151 and 152 (Internal Revenue Code)
  - 42 U.S.C. § 14071 (Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Program)
  - 34 C.F.R. §§ 99.1-99.67 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy)
  - 34 C.F.R. § 300.610-300.627 (Confidentiality of Information)
  - 42 C.F.R. § 2.1 et seq. (Confidentiality of Drug Abuse Patient Records)
  - Gonzaga University v. Doe, 536 U.S. 273, 122 S.Ct. 2268, 153 L.Ed. 2d 309 (2002)
- Cross References:
- MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)
  - MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)
  - MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
  - MSBA/MASA Model Policy 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies)
  - MSBA/MASA Model Policy 520 (Student Surveys)
  - MSBA/MASA Model Policy 711 (Video Recording on School Buses)
  - MSBA/MASA Model Policy 906 (Community Notification of Predatory Offenders)
  - MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 13, School Law Bulletin “I” (School Records – Privacy – Access to Data)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Independent School District No. \_\_\_\_\_ gives notice to parents of students currently in attendance in the District, and eligible students currently in attendance in the District, of their rights regarding pupil records.

1. Parents and eligible students are hereby informed that they have the following rights:

a. That a parent or eligible student has a right to inspect and review the student's education records. A parent or eligible student should submit to the school district a written request to inspect education records which identify as precisely as possible the record or records he or she wishes to inspect. The parent or eligible student will be notified of the time and place where the records may be inspected;

b. That the parent or eligible student has a right to seek amendment of the student's education records to ensure that those records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. A parent or eligible student may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. The request shall be in writing, identify the item the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student, shall state the reason for this belief, and shall specify the correction the parent or eligible student wishes the school district to make. The request shall be signed by the parent or eligible student. If the school district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing;

c. That the parent or eligible student has a right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that federal and state law and the regulations promulgated thereunder authorize disclosures without consent;

d. That the school district may disclose education records to other school officials within the school district if the school district has determined they have legitimate educational interests. For purposes of such disclosure, a "school official" is a person employed by the school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or other employee; a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school district has consulted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, public information officer, or data practices compliance official); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or any individual assisting a school official in the performance of his or her tasks. A school official has a "legitimate educational interest" if the individual needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and includes, but is not limited to, an interest directly related to classroom instruction, teaching, student achievement and progress, discipline of a student, and student health and welfare and the ability to respond to a request for educational data;

e. That the school district forwards education records on request to a school or post-secondary educational institution in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment, including information about disciplinary action taken as a result of any incident in which the student possessed or used a dangerous weapon, suspension and expulsion information pursuant to section 7165 of the federal No Child Left Behind Act [insert the following bracketed phrase if the school district has a policy regarding Staff

Notification of Violent Behavior by Students] [and data regarding a student's history of violent behavior,] and any disposition order which adjudicates the student as delinquent for committing an illegal act on school district property and certain other illegal acts;

f. That the parent or eligible student has a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged failure by the school district to comply with the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the rules promulgated thereunder. The name and address of the office that administers the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

[optional] g. That the parent or eligible student has a right to obtain a copy of the school district's policy regarding the protection and privacy of pupil records; and

[optional] h. That copies of the school district's policy regarding the protection and privacy of school records are located at \_\_\_\_\_ [insert location].

[optional] 2. Independent School District No. \_\_\_\_\_ has adopted a school board policy in order to comply with state and federal laws regarding education records. The policy does the following:

a. It classifies records as public, private, or confidential.

b. It establishes procedures and regulations to permit parents or students to inspect and review a student's education records. These procedures include the method of determining fees for copies, a listing of the locations of these education records, and the identity of the individuals in charge of the records.

c. It establishes procedures and regulations to allow parents or students to request the amendment of a student's education records to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights.

d. It establishes procedures and regulations for access to and disclosure of education records.

e. It establishes procedures and regulations for safeguarding the privacy of education records and for obtaining prior written consent of the parent or student when required prior to disclosure.

3. Copies of the school board policy and accompanying procedures and regulations are available to parents and students upon written request to the Superintendent.

4. Pursuant to applicable law, Independent School District No. \_\_\_\_\_ gives notice to parents of students currently in attendance in the school district, and eligible students currently in attendance in the school district, of their rights regarding "directory information."

"Directory information" includes the following information relating to a student: the student's name; address; telephone number; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; dates of attendance; grade level; enrollment status; participation in officially

recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; degrees, honors and awards received; the most recent educational agency or institution attended by the student; and other similar information. "Directory information" also includes the name, address, and telephone number of the student's parent(s). "Directory information" does not include a student's social security number or a student's identification number ("ID") if the ID may be used to access education records without use of one or more factors that authenticate the student's identity such as a personal identification number, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user. It also does not include identifying information on a student's religion, race, color, social position, or nationality.

[Note: The definition of directory information is found on page 515-1 of the school district's policy. This definition includes all of the types of information specifically referenced by state and federal law as directory information. A school district may choose not to include some or all of the enumerated information as directory information. A school district also may add to the list of directory information, as long as the added data is not information that generally would be deemed as an invasion of privacy or information that references the student's religion, race, color, social position, or nationality. This is an important policy decision for the local school board which must balance student privacy rights against public disclosure.]

a. THE INFORMATION LISTED ABOVE SHALL BE PUBLIC INFORMATION WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY DISCLOSE FROM THE EDUCATION RECORDS OF A STUDENT OR INFORMATION REGARDING A PARENT.

b. SHOULD THE PARENT OF A STUDENT OR THE STUDENT SO DESIRE, ANY OR ALL OF THE LISTED INFORMATION WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED WITHOUT THE PARENT'S OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT EXCEPT TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS AS PROVIDED UNDER FEDERAL LAW.

c. IN ORDER TO MAKE ANY OR ALL OF THE DIRECTORY INFORMATION LISTED ABOVE "PRIVATE" (I.E., SUBJECT TO CONSENT PRIOR TO DISCLOSURE), THE PARENT OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT MUST MAKE A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE BUILDING PRINCIPAL WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. THIS WRITTEN REQUEST MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- (1) NAME OF STUDENT AND PARENT, AS APPROPRIATE;
- (2) HOME ADDRESS;
- (3) SCHOOL PRESENTLY ATTENDED BY STUDENT;
- (4) PARENT'S LEGAL RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT, IF APPLICABLE;
- (5) SPECIFIC CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION WHICH IS NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC WITHOUT THE PARENT'S OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT.

5. Pursuant to applicable law, Independent School District No. \_\_\_\_\_ hereby gives notice to parents of students and eligible students in grades 11 and 12 of their rights regarding release of information to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions. The school district must release the names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 to

military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions within sixty (60) days after the date of the request. Data released to military recruiting officers under this provision may be used only for the purpose of providing information to students about military service, state and federal veterans' education benefits, and other career and educational opportunities provided by the military and cannot be further disseminated to any other person except personnel of the recruiting services of the armed forces.

SHOULD THE PARENT OF A STUDENT OR THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT SO DESIRE, ANY OR ALL OF THE LISTED INFORMATION WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED TO MILITARY RECRUITING OFFICERS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT.

IN ORDER TO REFUSE THE RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT, THE PARENT OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT MUST MAKE A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY, [DESIGNATE TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL, I.E., BUILDING PRINCIPAL], BY [INSERT DATE] EACH YEAR. THIS WRITTEN REQUEST MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- (1) NAME OF STUDENT AND PARENT, AS APPROPRIATE;
- (2) HOME ADDRESS;
- (3) STUDENT'S GRADE LEVEL;
- (4) SCHOOL PRESENTLY ATTENDED BY STUDENT;
- (5) PARENT'S LEGAL RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT, IF APPLICABLE;
- (6) SPECIFIC CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION WHICH ARE NOT TO BE RELEASED TO MILITARY RECRUITING OFFICERS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT;
- (7) SPECIFIC CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION WHICH ARE NOT TO BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING MILITARY RECRUITING OFFICERS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Notice: Refusal to release the above information to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions alone does not affect the school district's release of directory information to the public, including military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions. In order to make any directory information about a student private, the procedures contained in the Directory Information section of this notice also must be followed. If you do not want your child's or eligible student's directory information released to military recruiting officers or post-secondary educational institutions, you also must notify the school district that you do not want this directory information released to any member of the public, including military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, MINNESOTA

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

[Note: The use of this form is not mandated by statute. However, the juvenile justice system is required by law to submit a written request for such data and to provide a written certification concerning nondisclosure to others without consent as provided below. In addition, the school district is required to maintain such requests and a record of any release in the student's file.]

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act  
Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. § 13.32, Subds. 3(i) and 8(a)

DATE/TIME OF REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Superintendent of school district or chief administrative officer of school)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Requester's name/agency)

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

BASIS FOR REQUEST:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Juvenile delinquency investigation/prosecution
- \_\_\_\_\_ Child protection assessment/investigation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Investigation/filing of CHIPS or delinquency petition

RESPONSE TO REQUEST:

The school must provide the following information on request:

INFORMATION REQUESTED: (mark all that apply) RESPONSE PROVIDED: (yes / no)

_____	Student's full name	_____
_____	Home address	_____
_____	Telephone number	_____
_____	Date of birth	_____
_____	Student's school schedule	_____
_____	Attendance record	_____
_____	Photographs, if any; and	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ Parents' names, home addresses, and \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone numbers

A record of the written request and of the release must be maintained in the student's file.

CERTIFICATION: The undersigned certifies that he or she is a member of the juvenile justice system. The requested data are needed by the juvenile justice system so it may effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records are released. The undersigned will not disclose the information received to any other party, except as provided under state law, without prior written consent as required by Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, section 99.38(b). The undersigned further certifies that he or she understands that, by signing this request, he or she is subject to the penalties in Minn. Stat. § 13.09.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Title

[Note: The use of this form requesting information about specific activities or behavior is mandated by statute. In addition, the school district is required to maintain such requests and a record of any release in the student's file.]

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act  
Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. § 13.32, Subds. 3(i) and 8(b)

DATE/TIME OF REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Superintendent of school district or chief administrative officer of school)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Requester's name/agency)

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

BASIS FOR REQUEST:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Juvenile delinquency investigation/prosecution
- \_\_\_\_\_ Child protection assessment/investigation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Investigation/filing of CHIPS or delinquency petition

REASON FOR REQUEST: (Requester must describe why information regarding existence of the data marked below is necessary to effectively serve the student)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSE TO REQUEST:

The school must indicate whether it has data on the student that document any activity or behavior marked by the requester.

INFORMATION REQUESTED: (mark all that apply)    RESPONSE PROVIDED: (yes / no)

Indicate whether you have data that document the student's:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Use of a controlled substance, alcohol, or tobacco \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assaultive or threatening conduct as defined in \_\_\_\_\_

Minn. Stat. § 13.32, Subd. 8

- \_\_\_\_\_ Possession or use of weapons or look-alike weapons \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Theft \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vandalism and damage to property \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION: The undersigned certifies that he or she is a member of the juvenile justice system. The requested data are needed by the juvenile justice system so it may effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records are released. The undersigned will not disclose the information received to any other party, except as provided under state law, without prior written consent as required by Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, section 99.38(b). The undersigned further certifies that he or she understands that, by signing this request, he or she is subject to the penalties in Minn. Stat. § 13.09.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Title

[Note: A principal or chief administrative officer of a school who receives such a request to disclose information about a student to the juvenile justice system shall, to the extent permitted by federal law, notify the student’s parent or guardian by certified mail of the request to disclose information before disclosing the information. If the student’s parent or guardian notifies the principal or chief administrative officer within ten (10) days of receiving the certified notice that the parent or guardian objects to the disclosure, the principal or chief administrative officer must not disclose the information. The principal or chief administrative officer must inform the requesting member of the juvenile justice system of the objection. If no objection from the parent or guardian is received within fourteen (14) days, the principal or chief administrative officer must respond to the data request.]

Appendix I: Joint Powers Agreement

RIVER BEND EDUCATION DISTRICT No. 6049  
AMENDED EDUCATION DISTRICT AGREEMENT

For the purpose of implementing this cooperative delivery system formed, pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 123A.15, and first initiated as of July 1, 1991, the undersigned do hereby document the following operating agreements.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this Education District shall be “River Bend Education District” (“RBED”), Education District number 61-6049.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement shall be to provide comprehensive special education services and other educational services to members by continuing to facilitate cooperation and coordination among school districts, charter schools, post-secondary institutions, and other agencies involved in providing services to students.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

A. MEMBERSHIP

The Education District consists of two classes of members:

1. Institutional Members: Elementary/Secondary Public Schools districts (K-12) who meet the criteria set forth in Minn. Stat. § 123A.15, Subd.3. are eligible to be represented on the Governing Board of Directors of the Education District by a voting member of the Board.
2. Associate Members: Charter schools which meet the criteria set forth in Minn. Stat. § 124D.10 are eligible to be represented on the Governing Board of Directors of the Education District by one representative from all the member charter schools combined to serve as a voting member of the Board. Post secondary institutions ~~and/or charter schools~~, both public and private, which meet the criteria set forth in Minn. Stat. § 123A.16, Subd. 2. ~~or Minn. Stat. § 124D.10~~ are eligible to be represented on the Governing Board of Directors of the Education District by a non-voting member of the Board (ex-officio).

## B. ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS

Other school districts, post-secondary institutions or charter schools may become parties of this agreement, upon majority vote of the Governing Board of Directors of the River Bend Education District.

## C. TERMINATION OF MEMBERS

### 1. Withdrawal of Members

a. Withdrawal: Any member may withdraw through a resolution of a majority of the full membership of the Board of Education of member districts and upon written notice given to the RBED Board. Such notice must be received by the RBED Board by February 1, and shall become effective ~~July 1~~ June 30, of the ~~same~~ following year.

b. Forfeiture: RBED shall retain any funds or property paid to RBED by the withdrawing member. Any State or federal aids or grant proceeds received after the effective date of the withdrawal for this withdrawing member for students who had participated in an RBED program shall be paid by the withdrawing member to RBED.

c. Liabilities: The withdrawing member shall be responsible for any liabilities of RBED which have been incurred at any time up to and including the effective date of the withdrawal or which result from the withdrawal.

### 2. Termination of Associate Members

a. Termination: The RBED Board may terminate any associate member effective the following July 1 through a resolution adopted by a majority of the full membership of the RBED Board. Written notice of the termination must be sent by the RBED Board to the associate member by February 1 for the termination to be effective July 1 of the same year.

b. Forfeiture: RBED shall retain any funds or property paid to RBED by the terminated associate member. Any State or federal aids or grant proceeds received after the effective date of the termination for this terminating associate member for students who had participated in an RBED program shall be paid by the terminating member to RBED.

c. Liabilities: The terminating member shall not be responsible for any liabilities of RBED which have been incurred at any time up to and including the effective date of the termination or which result from the termination.

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. RIVER BEND EDUCATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The River Bend Education District Board of Directors shall consist of one appointed Board representative from each-Institutional Member as defined above at Article III, section A(1) and in Minn. Stat. § 123A.16, Subd.1 and one appointed Board representative serving on behalf of all member charter schools, as defined above at Article III, section A(2) and in Minn. Stat. § 124D.10, collectively. One appointed Board representative ~~from each~~ serving on behalf of all ~~associate Member~~ member post secondary institution(s), as defined above at Article III, section A(2) and in Minn. Stat. . § 123A.16, Subd.2, and the Director and the Business Manager of the RBED will serve as ex-officio members.

B. SELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. In the case of Institutional members, each local Board shall annually select one of its members to serve as a board member of the RBED. Each member shall remain on the River Bend Education District Board until replaced by that Board. Each Education District Board member must be an elected Board of Education member by the residents of ~~each~~ the local school district.
2. In the case of charter school members, the River Bend Education District Board shall annually select one representative for all the member charter schools to serve as their board member of the RBED. The representative shall remain on the River Bend Education District Board until replaced by the Education District Board.
3. In the case of post secondary institution members, the River Bend Education District Board ~~shall~~ may annually select one representative from ~~each~~ the combined member post secondary institution(s) to serve as ~~a~~ an ex-officio, non-voting board member of the RBED. The representative shall remain on the River Bend Education District Board until replaced by the Education District Board.

C. TERMS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The term of office for RBED Board members shall be one year.

D. OFFICERS

The Board shall elect a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a clerk and treasurer from among its institutional members. Each term of office shall be for one year.

The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall preside. The clerk shall keep a complete record of the minutes of each meeting, and the treasurer shall be the custodian of any

funds or financial records of the Board.

E. FACSIMILE PLATES

The signatures of the RBED Board chairperson, clerk and treasurer shall be reproduced on a check facsimile plate, and shall be maintained under the control of the RBED Director and Business Manager for the purpose of endorsing payroll and vendor bills.

ARTICLE V

ADVISORY COUNCILS

- A. An Administrative Council shall be composed of each institutional member's superintendent and RBED Director. The Administrative Council shall serve in an advisory capacity to the RBED Director and the RBED Board of Directors.

The Education District Administrative Council shall meet prior to the regular meetings of the RBED Board of Directors to review proposed actions and make recommendations on proposed actions to be considered by the RBED Board of Directors. These recommendations shall be presented to the RBED Board as it considers action items at its regular meetings.

- B. Program Advisory Councils shall be established as needed. As new program areas are implemented, representatives will be selected to represent that program area on the advisory council.

This advisory structure shall provide the opportunity for input from the program participants and shall serve as a crucial communications network and positive linkage for all of the membership in RBED.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE RIVER BEND EDUCATION DISTRICT

- A. Coordination and Delivery of Member Services

The Education District Board shall implement and coordinate the delivery of Education District programs and services according to the terms of its established comprehensive agreement for continuous learning.

- B. Personnel

The Board may employ or contract for employees as necessary to provide and support the programs and services for the Education District. Education District staff shall participate in retirement programs. The RBED Board and member districts agree to comply with Minnesota State Statute 123A.19 as it relates to teaching positions being directly affected by the implementation of this agreement.

- C. Contracts

The Board may enter into contracts with school districts, Service Cooperatives, and other public and private agencies to provide services needed in the Education District.

D. General Law

The Board shall be governed unless specifically provided otherwise, by laws applicable to independent school districts.

E. Report to Members

On an annual basis, the Board shall report to the member districts and to the State Board of Education about the activities of the Education District.

F. Other Duties

The Education District Board shall determine the services the Educational District provides to its member districts.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE

A. Budgets

A proposed budget for the following school year shall be presented to the Education District Board for approval by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Budget revisions shall be presented to the Education District Board for approval during the current year as adjustments become necessary.

The Director may expend funds within an approved budget in accordance with procedures established by law for independent school districts.

B. Member Fees

1. Base Membership Fee: A base membership fee shall be assessed all members each year. The amount of the base membership fee for the following fiscal year will be determined by May 30. The amount of the base membership fee may change throughout the fiscal year if the budget is revised by the RBED Board.
2. Additional Membership Fees: Non-Special education shared Education District expenses which are not covered by the base membership fee will be billed to institutional and associate members based upon their total K-12 enrollment, as contained in the most recent December 1 Special Education Unduplicated Child Count report. The amount of the additional membership fees for the following fiscal year will be based on the budget which has been approved by the RBED Board. The amount of the additional membership fees will be proportionate to the member's total K-12 enrollment as compared to the total K-12 enrollment for all RBED members.
3. Special Education Membership Fees: Special education expenses which are not pupil specific and are not covered by the base or additional membership fees will be billed to members based on each member's public and non-public student special education count as contained in the most recent December 1 Special Education Unduplicated Child Count report. The members shall receive

notice of what the amount of the special education fee will be for the following fiscal year will be based on the budget which has been approved by the RBED Board. The amount of the special education membership fee may change throughout the fiscal year if the budget is revised by the RBED Board.

4. Special Education Fees Which Are Pupil Specific: Special education fees which are pupil specific, such as sign language interpreters and one to one pupil aides, shall be billed back to the member in which the child resides.

#### D. Additional Revenue Sources

1. Special Education Funds: RBED may apply for and receive state and federal special education aids and reimbursements for disabled students.
2. Grants: RBED shall apply for and receive federal Carl Perkins funds, grants and other revenue sources as they may be available on behalf of its members.
3. Tuition: Tuition for programs operated by RBED which provide direct services to students shall be billed back to the school district in which the child resides or other entities, as appropriate.
4. Other Revenue: RBED may receive other revenue from whatever sources are available, including, but not limited to, the sale of software.

#### E. Billing

All membership fees and special education fees, which are pupil specific, shall be billed quarterly beginning July 1. Membership fees will be billed at the rate of twenty-five per cent (25%) of the annual fee for the first, second and third quarters; twenty per cent (20%) of the annual fee will be billed for the fourth quarter based on the RBED budget and subsequent revisions approved by the Board. The final five per cent (5%) of the membership fees shall be billed after the fiscal year has ended and final expenditures and other revenue are known for that fiscal year. Pupil specific special education fees will be based on the actual expenditures. Payment of the fees will be due within thirty days of the member receiving the bill from RBED.

### ARTICLE VIII

#### DISSOLUTION OF THE EDUCATION DISTRICT

##### A. DISSOLUTION

This agreement shall continue in force until the majority of the institutional members shall mutually agree to terminate this agreement and dissolve the Education District Board.

##### B. SALE OF RBED PROPERTY

The RBED Board may establish a minimum sales price for any RBED property. Sealed bids shall be solicited from interested institutional members for RBED real and

personal property, with the sale awarded to the highest bidder. If no bids which exceed any minimum purchase price established by RBED Board are received from institutional members, the unsold real or personal property will be advertised and sold to the general public in accordance with any applicable bid laws.

#### C. DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF RBED PROPERTY

Upon dissolution of the Education District Board all of the proceeds of the sale of RBED real and personal property and any remaining funds shall be distributed back to its institutional members on the basis of the most recent December 1 Special Education Unduplicated Child Count report containing the resident public and non-public student population of each institutional member.

#### D. LIABILITIES

The institutional and associate members, which are members at the time of dissolution shall be responsible for any liabilities of RBED at the time of dissolution, including but not limited to, indebtedness on real property and reemployment insurance liability.

### ARTICLE IX

#### AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES

After entering into this education district agreement, any amendments to the Articles contained in this document shall require an affirmative vote of the majority of the voting members of Board of the RBED member districts.

### ARTICLE X

#### NOTICE

All notices required to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and be addressed to the chair of the school board or Education District Board at the appropriate administrative office. All notices require to be provided on a specific day or date shall be considered as timely if postmarked on or before the due date.

### ARTICLE XI

#### SAVINGS PROVISION

Should any provisions of this Agreement be found unlawful, the other provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect if by so doing the purposes of the agreement taken as a whole can be made operative. Should any provisions be found unlawful, the school board of each participating district shall attempt to agree upon an amendment to this Agreement to replace the unlawful part.

The following school districts and charter school hereby agree to enter into Joint Powers agreement for the purpose of providing, by cooperative effort, comprehensive special education services and other

educational services by continuing to facilitate cooperation and coordination among school districts, charter schools, post-secondary institutions, and other agencies involved in providing services to students.

Independent School District No.836, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

Independent School District No.2365, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

Independent School District No.84, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

Independent School District No.837, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

Independent School District No.88, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

Independent School District No.840, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

Independent School District No.2310, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

Independent Charter School No. 4007, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

Independent Charter School No. 4050, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

Independent Charter School No. 4144, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_, Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1998-2006~~.

## Appendix J: Operating Procedures, Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

River Bend Education District (RBED) and their member districts

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Mission and Purpose

The RBED SEAC:

- Advises the Special Education Department on current issues, program development, parental concerns and involvement
- Serves as an advocate for high-quality special education programs
- Promotes communication between family, school, and community

Members of the RBED SEAC are appointed by the committee to voluntarily serve as representatives for a 3-year term, with the opportunity to reapply for additional terms as described in the SEAC bylaws.

The council consists of approximately 10 people, including parents, community representatives, and school staff. At least 50 percent of the members must be parents of students from diverse disability areas.

### Primary Operations

Review and abide by SEAC bylaws, including confidentiality of person-specific information shared in meetings or in SEAC-related activities.

Attend scheduled meeting (see schedule below): To remain in current standing, members are required to attend at least 50 percent of the meetings scheduled in a year. In addition, members share equally in the responsibility to serve on related SEAC subcommittees or task forces as needed.

Prepare for meetings: Read SEAC agendas, minutes, reports, and related materials. Provide requested input prior to meetings. Come prepared to discuss agenda items using relevant examples or supporting information.

Participate in meetings: Provide requested feedback. Contribute ideas for solutions. Identify barriers or challenges experienced by other families; represent family concerns; focus on student needs as a group, rather than on individual student concerns. Share personal experiences as they relate to decisions regarding policies and procedures; ask clarifying questions. Encourage parent involvement and participation; participate in community awareness activities and information sharing with families in the district.

Work collaboratively with the school district or cooperative's special education director as well as other school personnel and SEAC parent and community members to fulfill the local SEAC's purpose and mission.

### Meeting Schedule

The council is scheduled to meet 1 time during the school year. Meetings will be held from 4:00 am to 5:00 am at River Bend Education District, 1315 South Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073. RBED SEAC meetings will meet in April. Additional meetings will be added if needed.

Revised 6/13 RBED SEAC