

CONFIDENTIALITY AND ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION SERVICES PROGRAMS AND SERVICE PLANS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of ensuring the confidentiality of personally identifiable data pertaining to a student with a disability. Personally identifiable data will not be disclosed by any school district employee or member of a Committee on Special Education / Committee on Preschool Special Education (CSE/CPSE) to any person (other than the parent of such student), organization or agency unless the parent or guardian of the child provides written consent; there is a valid court order for such information; or disclosure is permitted by law.

Personally identifiable data is defined in the policy on Student Records, 5500.

The Board of Education, while acknowledging the confidentiality requirement, believes that in order for each student with disabilities to receive the full benefit of his/her individualized education program (IEP), individualized education services program (IESP) or service plan (SP), individuals responsible for implementing the program or plan must, prior to the implementation, fully understand the scope of their responsibility and the specific accommodations, modifications and supports to be provided.

To this end, this policy establishes procedures to ensure that any person having both direct contact with a student with an IEP, IESP or SP and a responsibility to provide a service, accommodation or program modification for the student in accordance with that student's IEP, IESP or SP shall be informed of his/her responsibilities under the IEP, and shall receive or have access to a copy of the student's IEP, IESP or SP as specified below.

I. IEP, IESP or SP Copies

At a CSE or CPSE meeting for each student, a determination will be made as to which general education teachers, special education teachers, related service providers and other service providers have responsibility to implement the recommendations on the student's IEP, IESP or SP. "Other service provider" means a representative of another public school district, charter school, BOCES program, child care institution school, Special Act school district, State-supported school, approved private in-state or out-of-state school and an approved preschool provider where the student receives or will receive IEP, IESP or SP services.

The CSE, CPSE Chairpersons shall ensure that a paper or electronic copy of each student's IEP, IESP or SP is provided to each general education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider and/or other service provider who is responsible for implementation of the program or plan. These individuals responsible for implementing an IEP, IESP or SP shall, in turn, ensure that all paraprofessionals (teacher aides and teacher assistants) and other providers responsible for assisting in implementation are given the opportunity to review their copy of the IEP, IESP or SP prior to program implementation as well as have ongoing access to such copy.

II. Notification of Responsibilities

In addition to disseminating copies of a student's IEP, IESP or SP, CSE and CPSE Chairpersons must designate one or more professional employees of the district with knowledge of the student's disability and program to inform each general education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider, other service provider, paraprofessional, and other provider and support staff person of his or her responsibility to provide specific accommodations, program modifications, supports and/or services for the student in accordance with the IEP, IESP or SP. In selecting the professional staff person(s), the chairperson could select him/herself for this responsibility, another administrator, or a teacher, related service provider or other professional, as appropriate.

III. Confidentiality

All copies of a student's IEP, IESP or SP provided or made accessible under this policy must remain confidential, and shall not be redisclosed to any other person, except in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). To ensure such confidentiality, the CSE and CPSE Chairpersons shall include with each IEP, IESP or SP copy provided or made accessible under this policy, a copy of the Board's policy on student records (Policy 5500). All IEP, IESP or SP copies must remain in a secure location on school grounds at all times. If IEP copies are transmitted and/or provided electronically, security systems (e.g., password protect a file or folder) must be implemented to prevent unauthorized internal and external access to the student's IEP, IESP or SP.

IV. Documentation

The designated professional employee(s) defined in section II above shall obtain the signature of each person covered by this policy, indicating that he or she has:

1. received either a copy of the student's IEP, IESP or SP or the opportunity to review the IEP, IESP or SP prior to its implementation, as required under state law and regulation;
2. been informed of their responsibilities for implementation;
3. knowledge of where the IEP, IESP or SP is to be maintained; and
4. an understanding of the confidentiality requirements.

At the end of the school year or whenever the IEP has been revised, the CSE and CPSE Chairperson shall collect all IEP copies provided under this policy and destroy them.

Cross-ref: 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA and Article 89
5500, Student Records

Ref: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC §§1400 et seq.
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99

Education Law §4402(7)

8 NYCRR §§200.2(b)(11); 200.4(e)(3); 200.16(e)(6)

New York State Education Department, Office of Special Education, Guidance Document,

Providing copies of the IEPs for Students with Disabilities, 5/13/03,

www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/chap408final.htm

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