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# MIAMI EAST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## MIAMI EAST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Statement of Policy and Guidelines for providing Accommodations at Events for Disabled Students

The Miami East Local School District Board of Education recognizes that it has an obligation to ensure that it provides nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities to students with disabilities in such a manner as is necessary to afford students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, such services and activities. As a result, the following procedures and guidelines will be followed:

The Miami East Local School District recognizes that the IEP requirements under IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 emphasize the importance of three core concepts:

- (1) The involvement and progress of each child with a disability in the general curriculum including addressing the unique needs that arise out of the child's disability;
- (2) The involvement of parents and students, together with regular and special education personnel, in making individual decisions to support each student's (child's) educational success, and;
- (3) The preparation of students with disabilities for employment and other post-school activities.

The IEP and 504 team's determination of how each child's disability affects the child's involvement and progress in the general curriculum is a primary consideration in the development of the child's IEP and 504 Plan.

#### Specific Components for Deaf or Severely Hearing Impaired children

For a child who is deaf or severely hearing impaired to participate in the general curriculum he or she may need sign language and materials which reflect his or her

language development, those needs (relating to the child's participation in the general curriculum) must be addressed in the child's IEP.

For a child who is deaf or severely hearing impaired to participate in a Board (District) sponsored extracurricular event he or she may need an interpreter present to assist the child in understanding the audible nature of the event. Thus, the audible nature of each Board sponsored extracurricular event that a child wishes to attend, must be assessed on an individual basis. Determination of whether an interpreter is required shall be based upon factors such as the context in which the communication is taking place, the number of people involved, and whether the audible nature of an event is an essential component to assist a child in effectively participating in the particular District nonacademic or extracurricular program or activity.

By way of example, an interpreter would be an essential component to assist a child attending a play, where the actors' speaking is needed to be understood in order to understand the context of the play. However, an interpreter would not be an essential component needed at a sporting event such as a football game, where a child can view the game and gather all information from the scoreboard.

Miami East Local School District will implement and follow the guidelines stated below for all children with disabilities within the District:

1. The Board will provide notification to students and parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year (via the District school event calendar), and continuing throughout the school year as much in advance as possible, of the nonacademic and extracurricular benefits, services or activities students may be eligible to attend or participate in during that school year. The Parent of a child who is deaf or severely hearing impaired, and who's child wishes to participate in a Board sponsored nonacademic or extracurricular event, will notify the child's Teacher in writing with at least one week's prior notice. The District posts nonacademic or extracurricular program or activity events on their website as well as sending out a monthly calendar. If a particular District nonacademic or extracurricular program or activity event is to be held that the parent has not received notification of the Teacher will contact the parent at least two weeks ahead of the scheduled event.

2. The Parent, IEP and/or 504 Team will assess the audible nature of the Board sponsored Event. The audible nature of the Board sponsored event must be an essential component of the extracurricular event as stated above. The Parent will notify the teacher in writing of the child's request to participate in the in the particular District nonacademic or extracurricular program or activity. The teacher will forward a copy of the parental notification to the Building Principal within two days of receiving the parental notification in writing. The original request will be placed in the student's file. The Building Principal is responsible for overseeing all requests. In the event that a parental request does not seem warranted under these guidelines the building principal will contact the Superintendent within one day of receiving this request. The

Superintendent will review the request and make the final decision and notify the parents of said decision in writing.

3. Consideration of all special factors will be reviewed by the IEP team and Parent. If it is determined that a child needs a particular device or service (including an interpreter, or any other accommodation) in order for the child to understand the audible nature of the Board sponsored event, the District will provide any and all assistance required to the child.

4. Consideration of the communication needs of the child, consideration of the child's language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communications with peers and professional personnel in the child's language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the child's language and communication mode will all be assessed by the Parent and IEP Team.

5. The Parent of a disabled child is not in agreement with District personnel regarding whether accommodations are necessary and appropriate for a particular event or activity, the Parent may appeal the determination directly to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent shall review the relevant information and issue an opinion consistent with these Guidelines and Policy.

If you have any other questions regarding rights with respect to the FERPA Act please feel free to contact the superintendent of Miami East Local Schools.