

Background:

The Council periodically reviews TCDD’s Position Statements. Staff solicited input this quarter regarding proposed revisions from Council members on the Education Position Statement.

Revisions suggested by Council members and/or staff are included in the draft materials. Comments in **PURPLE** represent input from Council members; comments in **RED** represent suggestions from TCDD staff.

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 7.

Expected Action:

The Committee will consider suggested changes to the TCDD Education Position Statement and recommend revisions to the Council.

Council

Agenda Item 9.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider revisions to the TCDD Education Position Statement recommended by the Public Policy Committee and determine final action.



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

(512) 437-5432 / (800) 262-0334
Fax (512) 437-5434
6201 E. Oltorf, Suite 600, Austin, TX 78741-7509
TCDD@tcdd.texas.gov / www.tcdd.texas.gov

Education

Draft Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that all students have a right to learn, play and work with students their own age, with and without disabilities, in the same schools, classrooms and other educational and extracurricular programs attended by their brothers, sisters and neighbors, and that schools, classrooms ~~and programs~~, and related transportation must be both physically and programmatically accessible to all students. It is the position of the Council, as well as the policy of the state, that all children should be treated with dignity and respect when addressing their behavioral and academic ~~and behavioral disciplinary~~ needs.

All students regardless of individual needs must be provided with individualized inclusive academic and vocational ~~appropriate~~ instruction, ~~research-based positive behavioral interventions and evidence informed~~ supports, access to the general curriculum, extracurricular activities and related services in the least restrictive environment. Related services refer to developmental, corrective, and other supportive services, including psychological, counseling and medical diagnostic services and transportation ~~includes but are not limited to adaptive aids, assistive technology, modifications, therapies and supplementary aids~~. The delivery of individually appropriate instruction and related services must be provided by qualified teachers and service providers with administrative support and opportunities for continued and ongoing professional development in all areas of identified need.

Comment [STA1]: Therapies are specifically included in IDEA – speech, mental health, occupational, whatever is necessary

All people with disabilities in Texas should have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential for independence, productivity and integration into the community. Education is a lifelong process ~~which that~~ is vital to attaining a full and complete life. The ~~postsecondary~~ results of an appropriate public school education for students with disabilities should be evidenced by employment, enrollment in postsecondary education, engaged community involvement, or both all within one year of leaving high school.

Charter schools or schools accepting voucher payments must provide students the same educational rights and opportunities that they would be accorded in the public education system. The Council believes that schools that accept state or federal money to educate students must accept any student with a ~~developmental~~ disability who may apply for admission to that school; abide by federal and state education laws that protect the rights of all students ~~with disabilities~~; abide by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act that requires

any entity receiving federal funds to include people with disabilities in its program, and accept any student at the state rate of payment asking for no additional tuition or fees beyond the normal fees required by the student's local education agency. If these criteria are not met, ~~then~~ the Council ~~adamantly~~ opposes publicly funded school vouchers and charter schools. The Council does not support any initiative that would deplete funds from the public education system and ultimately from those available for the education of students with disabilities.

The full inclusion of Texas students with disabilities should be approached as a value and underlying philosophy by which we educate all students. We believe that successful inclusion requires that teacher education programs prepare all educators and administrators, not only those in special education services, to work with the full range of students in inclusive settings. Special education is not a separate educational system, but rather a service provided to people with specific needs within the general educational system. Professional preparation programs should emphasize the shared responsibility of all educators and administrators for every student.

Full inclusion requires the ongoing, shared responsibility of students, parents, guardians, educators, administrators and the community at large to ensure that all students have the same opportunities to learn, to play, to be engaged with peers, and to fully experience student life.

Approved ~~November 7, 2014~~