

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

EDUCATING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Harvard Public Schools embrace the concept of "inclusion" which supports the education of students with special needs with their peers within the regular education classrooms. Further, the School Committee supports the integration of students with special needs which enables them to have access to, and be included in, the full range of the activities of the school environment.

It shall be the practice of the Harvard Public Schools to educate children with special needs in the "least restrictive environment." (Least Restrictive Environment is the legal principle in federal and state special education law that sets forth the right of students with special needs to be educated in the regular education environment to the maximum extent appropriate.)

Special education personnel will provide services to children with special needs within the regular classroom or in collaboration with the regular education teacher. Children with special needs shall be placed outside the regular classroom only after options and/or modifications are attempted and only to the extent outlined in the student's IEP as agreed upon by the team. Successful integration requires collaboration and cooperation among parents, teachers and administrators to create and maintain a successful educational experience for all students.

Approved: February 22, 2010

Amended: March 23, 2015