

Effective Communications

In compliance with federal and state law, all District-sponsored programs, activities, meetings, and services will be accessible to individuals with disabilities, including persons with hearing, vision and/or speech disabilities. When communicating in this context with students, families, applicants, participants, members of the public, and their companions with disabilities, the District will take appropriate steps to ensure that any communications are as effective as communications with persons who have no disabilities. Such steps will include furnishing, in a timely manner, appropriate auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, programs, activities, meetings or services conducted or sponsored by the District. The information contained within the District's website is a service will be accessible to all individuals with disabilities.

When an IDEA-eligible or a Section 504-eligible student's disability impacts his/her hearing, vision or speech, the school will apply both a FAPE (free and appropriate public education) analysis and the effective communication requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II) in determining how to meet the student's communication needs and how to formulate the student's individual education program (IEP).

For families, applicants, participants, members of the public and their companions, the District's website will provide information on how to request auxiliary aids and services, ask related questions, or raise concerns. When necessary and upon request, such information will also be provided in an accessible format for the requestor at no cost. A form for requesting auxiliary aids and services will be available on the District website, at the District Office and attached as an appendix to the implementing procedure for this policy. When determining an appropriate auxiliary aid or service, the District or school will give primary consideration to the auxiliary aid or service specifically requested by the person with a disability.

For purposes of this policy, "auxiliary aids and services" include a wide range of services, devices, technologies and methods for providing effective communication, and may include:

1. Effective methods of making aurally-delivered information available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, such as:
 - qualified interpreters (on-site or through video remote interpreting services);
 - note-takers;
 - real-time computer-aided transcription services ("CART");
 - written materials;
 - the exchange of written notes;
 - telephone handset amplifiers ;
 - assistive listening devices;
 - assistive listening systems;
 - telephones compatible with hearing aids;
 - closed caption decoders;
 - open- and closed-captioning, including real-time-captioning;

- voice-, text- and video-based telecommunications products and systems, including text telephones (TTYs), videophones and captioned telephones, or equally effective telecommunications devices;
 - videotext displays; and
 - accessible electronic and information technology.
2. Effective methods of making visually-delivered information available to individuals with visual impairments, such as:
- qualified readers;
 - taped texts;
 - audio recordings;
 - Brailled materials and displays;
 - screen reader software;
 - magnification software;
 - optical readers;
 - secondary auditory programs (SAP);
 - large print materials; and
 - accessible electronic and information technology.
3. Effective methods of enabling a person with a speech disability to communicate with the school or District personnel, such as:
- a word or letter Board;
 - writing materials;
 - spelling to communicate;
 - a qualified sign-language interpreter;
 - taped texts;
 - a computer;
 - a portable device that writes and/or produces speech; and
 - telecommunication devices.
4. Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices; and
5. Other similar services and actions.

Auxiliary aids and services will be provided for any school-initiated program, activity, meeting or service, which may include:

- Parent/teacher conferences;
 - ESE/IEP/504 meetings;
 - Conferences or hearings involving student corrective action ;
 - Planning meetings;
 - Interviews for District employment;
 - Staff Meetings;
 - Interactive meetings regarding accommodations;
 - Graduation ceremonies;
 - Field Trips;
 - School Performances or Sporting Events;
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- Board Meetings;
- Website information, including online information regarding curriculum, policies and Board materials and agendas;
- Reports of student grades and academic progress; and
- Parental alerts regarding school closures or events.

The Superintendent is granted the authority to develop procedures in order to implement this policy.

Cross Reference(s)

Board Policy 2161 – Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students

Board Policy 2162 – Education of Students with Disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Board Policy 3210 – Non-discrimination

Legal Reference(s)

RCW 28A.642 – Discrimination Prohibition

RCW 49.60 – Discrimination – Human Rights Commission

WAC 392-400-215 – Student Rights

42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12134 – Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (Title II)

28 C.F.R. Part 35 – Non-discrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services

29 U.S.C. § 794 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

34 C.F.R. Part 104 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

20 U.S.C. §§ 1400-1419 – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B

34 C.F.R Part 300 – Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities

Management Resource(s)

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