

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACCOMMODATIONS (PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS)**

The goals of the Hadley Public Schools' special education program are to allow each child to grow and achieve at their own level, to gain independence and self reliance, and to return to the mainstream of school society as soon as possible.

The requirements of Ch. 71B and the M.G.L. (known as Ch. 766 of the Acts of 1972) and state regulations will be followed in the identification of children with special needs, in referrals for their evaluation, in prescribing for them suitable programs, and in assessing their educational progress. In keeping with state requirements, all children with special needs between the ages of three through twenty-two who have not attained a high school diploma or its equivalent will be eligible for special education.

The School Committee believes that most children with special needs can be educated in the regular school program if they are given special instruction, accommodations, and the support they need. These children should also be given the opportunity to participate in the Hadley Public Schools' non-academic and extracurricular activities.

The School Committee recognizes that the needs of certain children are so great that special programs, special classes, or special schools may be necessary. When appropriate programs, services, or facilities are not available within the public schools, the School Committee will provide these children with access to schools where such instruction and accommodations are available.

It is the desire of the School Committee that the schools work closely with parent/guardians in designing and providing programs and services to children with special needs. Parent/guardians will be informed and conferred with whenever a child is referred for evaluation. In event of any disagreement concerning diagnosis, program plan, special placement, or evaluation, the parent/guardians will be accorded the right of due process.

The School Committee will secure properly trained personnel to work with children with special needs. Since the financial commitment necessary to meet the needs of all of these children is extensive, the Committee will make every effort to obtain financial assistance.

LEGAL REFS.:      The Individuals with Disabilities Ed.Act (PL-108-446, adopted 12/03/04)  
                         Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
                         M.G.L. 71B:1 et.seq. (Chapter 766 of the Acts of 1972)  
                         Board of Education Chapter 766 Regulations, adopted 10/74, as amended through 7/1/81  
                         603 CMR 28:00 inclusive

Adopted By The  
Hadley School Committee: September 22, 2014  
Reviewed and Revised: January 27, 2020