

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Consent Item

December 11, 2007

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Proposed Rules 6A-6.03014, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Visually Impaired and 6A-6.03020, Specially Designed Instruction for Students Who Are Homebound or Hospitalized

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1001.02, 1003.01(3)(a), (b), 1003.55, 1003.57, 1010.42(4)(1), Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Rule 6A-6.03014, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Visually Impaired

This rule establishes criteria for determining eligibility as a student with a visual impairment. The information below summarizes the changes proposed.

Title: The proposed rule title is changed from “Special Programs for Students Who are Visually Impaired” to “Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Visually Impaired.” This change more accurately reflects the intent of the rule which is to establish requirements for evaluation and eligibility determination.

Definition: The proposed rule revises the definition to include terminology currently used in the field of visual impairment (blind or low vision). It also adds a provision to clarify that visual impairment does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual perceptual and/or visual motor difficulties.

Evaluation procedures: The proposed rule clarifies that in order for additional evaluation to occur, students must first meet medical eligibility criteria. Evaluation by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist continues to be required. It also makes provisions for evaluation in areas known to be impacted by vision loss. The proposed rule clarifies that a medical evaluation performed within one calendar year may be used for reevaluation purposes.

Eligibility: Levels of visual acuity (20/70 or less in better eye after best correction) and medical conditions (e.g. constricted peripheral fields, progressive vision loss, and other

specified conditions) associated with eligibility remain unchanged from the current rule. A provision is added to use the eligibility criteria for children ages birth to five years of age for students with multiple disabilities who are unable to be assessed using conventional methods.

Supportive Services: The proposed rule changes the reference from the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Handicapped to reflect the correct name - the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI). The rule continues to require that school districts register students who are visually impaired with FIMC-VI.

Rule 6A-6.03020, Specially Designed Instruction for Students Who Are Homebound or Hospitalized

Rule 6A-6.03020 establishes criteria for determining eligibility for the homebound/hospital program. The rule requires amendment to correctly reference other related State Board of Education Rules relating to students with disabilities.

The proposed revisions delete references to Rule 6A-6.03015, *Special Programs for Students Who Are Physically Impaired*, Florida Administrative Code (FAC.), and Rule 6A-6.03021, FAC., *Special Programs for Students Who Are Profoundly Handicapped*. These rules were repealed effective July 1, 2007.

Rule 6A-6.03015, FAC., was replaced by three rules - Rule 6A-6.030151, FAC., *Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who are Physically Impaired with Orthopedic Impairment*, Rule 6A-6.030152, FAC., *Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Physically Impaired with Other Health Impairment*, and Rule 6A-6.030153, FAC., *Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Traumatic Brain Injury*. These new rules are referenced in the proposed revision.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rules 6A-6.03014, *Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Visually Impaired* and 6A-6.03020, *Specially Designed Instruction for Students Who Are Homebound or Hospitalized*

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