

Special Education Staffing Plan

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requires each local school system to submit an annual special education staffing plan to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The plan must demonstrate public input and be approved by the local Board of Education prior to its submission to MSDE. The locally approved staffing plan is submitted to MSDE annually by July 1 with the local application for federal funds. MSDE reviews the staffing plan and advises the local agency if there is a need for additional information or revisions. If revisions are required, the local agency must submit the revised staffing plan by September 30. The required elements of the staffing plan include the following:

- Evidence of public input
- Evidence of maintenance of effort within the meaning of 34 CFR §300.231, Maintenance of Effort, and COMAR 13A.02.05, Maintenance of Effort
- Staffing patterns of service providers of special education and related services
- The number and type of service providers needed to provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) for each student in the least restrictive environment (LRE)
- Local accountability and monitoring
- Evaluation of the local staffing plan for effectiveness
- Strategies to resolve concerns over staffing plans
- Evaluation of the local staffing plan for effectiveness
- Steps to secure public input in the development of the staffing plan
- Information on how the public agency will use the staffing plan to monitor the assignment of staff to ensure that personnel and other resources are available to provide FAPE to each student with a disability in the LRE.

The following resolution is recommended for your consideration:

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) requires each local school system to submit an annual staffing plan; and

WHEREAS, The Special Education Staffing Committee composed of parents, teachers, principals, special education staff, and special education advocates held two meetings in June and December of 2015 and recommendations were submitted to the Department of Special Education; and

WHEREAS, The FY 2016 Recommended Operating Budget includes all of the staffing plan elements required by the Maryland State Department of Education; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the FY 2017 Special Education Staffing Plan as included in the FY 2017 Recommended Operating Budget; and be it further

Resolved, That upon final approval of the FY 2017 Operating Budget in June 2016, the Special Education Staffing Plan will be submitted to MSDE.