

## PART A - SECTION 200

### THE PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION IN ECCFEC

Participating school districts within the East Central Center for Exceptional Children Special Education unit affirm the principle of the right of each child to a free appropriate education regardless of disability.

Education in its broadest sense implies development of each child to his/her fullest capacity as an individual and as a contributing member of society. Consequently, the goals of special education are essentially the same as those of education in general in serving the needs of the whole child. Consideration of these goals should encompass the following areas:

1. Developing emotional security, social skills, and fostering independence.
2. Developing academic knowledge according to individual abilities.
3. Developing occupational competence at a level appropriate for each child.
4. Developing leisure, lifetime, and any other skills that will enhance the individual's ability to live in an ever-changing world.

East Central's individual school districts have joined together to provide for the needs of any child with disabilities (as defined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and subsequent reauthorizations and NDCSC 15-59-01) who requires an individual educational program designed specifically for his/her needs, and to provide this program in the least restrictive environment. Whenever possible, this educational program would be provided in the local school environment.

It must be recognized that the intent of the federal and state provisions for special education and related services is merely meant to provide services that will assist each child in receiving benefit from his/her individual educational program. East Central's school districts recognize that these provisions do not guarantee an average level of functioning for all children the unit serves, nor does it abrogate the responsibilities and rights of each child's parents.

The reader must remember that these are goals we strive to accomplish.