

## **Students with Disabilities/Special Education Programs**

Students with disabilities are protected by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and, when eligible, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA-2004). Students with disabilities are entitled to a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE), which is defined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or §504 Plan (IAP). Parents/guardians who believe their child may have a disability can initiate the special education and/or §504 "identification" process by making a request to school staff. When staff members have significant concerns about a student, they are to initiate the "problem solving" process and, when appropriate, refer the student to the school's Care Team.

Students between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21) residing in St. Louis County, as well as St. Louis City residents attending Parkway schools, are eligible for special education and related services offered by the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County if they are diagnosed with educational disabilities. The SSD also provides special education and audiological evaluations, hearing and speech/language screening services, Special Non-Public Access Program (SNAP) special education services for students with educational disabilities attending private/parochial schools, and a variety of adult education and "transitional" programs. Homebound instruction for home or hospital-bound students (both with and without disabilities) and applied technology/vocational programming are also available. Parkway provides accommodations and services for students with §504 disabilities who are not eligible for services under the IDEA.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents have the right to review, request amendment of, and file complaints concerning the content or maintenance of personally identifiable information about their children. The rights of individuals with disabilities are available upon request from school staff or the Parkway Special Services Department. Appeals of disability related decisions should be submitted in writing to the Parkway and/or SSD Superintendents of Schools.

Questions or requests for assistance/information should be directed to the student's guidance counselor, the school's special education Administrative Team (West Middle administrator and SSD area coordinator), or to Parkway's Special Services Department at the Instructional Services Center at 314-415-5002.

July 2013