

Parkway School District Public Notice
SERVICES AND RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities have rights and safeguards under 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 protected from discrimination and guaranteed a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE), which is defined by their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or, for Section 504, Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP). The rights of students with disabilities and the roles/responsibilities for Parkway and the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County are described in:

- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) *State Plan for Special Education* and IDEA-2004 *Procedural Safeguards for Children and Parents* brochure
- the SSD's Compliance Plan and the St. Louis County *General Assurance Document*
- the Merry Settlement Agreement and Parkway policies, guidelines, and procedures

These and other documents contain the District's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA) and also include policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention, and destruction of personally identifiable information/records.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents/guardians may inspect and/or review personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement, or provision of FAPE of a child with a disability. Amendment of the education record may be requested if a parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents/guardians have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the MO DESE concerning alleged failures to meet the requirements of FERPA.

Children under Parkway's jurisdiction between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21), inclusive, may be eligible for special education and related services. Educational disabilities include: Autism, Deaf/Blindness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment and Deafness, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairments, Specific Learning Disabilities, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Visual Impairment/Blind, and Young Child with a Developmental Delay.

The SSD provides special education and related services (e.g., physical and occupational therapy, speech and/or language services, social work services, counseling) for students with educational disabilities, including evaluation and some services for students attending non-public schools. Parkway provides Section 504 accommodations and services for persons with disabilities under that law. Homebound Instruction (home or hospital-bound students) and technical education programs are available for any qualifying student.

The districts are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities under their jurisdiction, regardless of the severity of the disability, and assist the State with information and referral services in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for Missouri's First Steps Program. This includes non-resident children attending private schools in Parkway, highly mobile children (i.e., migrant families and families in transition), and children suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though advancing from grade to grade. When warranted, schools are to engage in problem solving, provide interventions/supports, determine if there is reason to suspect a disability, and refer for evaluation. Parents/guardians may refer a child for evaluation by contacting school staff and are entitled to written notification regarding proposed or refused evaluation and/or placement of students with disabilities.

All students with disabilities are served in the least restrictive environment and attend Parkway schools unless determined otherwise. The IEP or §504 team for each student with a disability determines what placement, program, adaptations, curriculum modifications, specialized instruction, supplemental aids and services, or other accommodations are required. The opportunity to participate in the Parkway curriculum, earn "regular" or "modified curriculum" credit, and obtain a high school diploma is available to all students.

Questions and requests for assistance, information, documents, or this notice in another language may be directed to the Special Services Department at the Instructional Services Center (8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.). A school's "special education administrative team" (administrator and SSD area coordinator) also can provide assistance.