

STANDARDS FOR THE EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS OPERATED BY AGENCIES OTHER THAN THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES OR THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE CITY SHALL NOT BE LOWER THAN THE STANDARDS FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS OPERATED BY THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES OR THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE CITY. THE TERM "SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES" MEANS THOSE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES NECESSARY TO ASSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN WITH HANDICAPS WHICH IMPEDE THEIR ABILITY TO LEARN, ARE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTAIN APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING SKILLS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR POTENTIAL, AND SHALL INCLUDE THE FULL RANGE OF SUCH SERVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, THERAPEUTIC TREATMENTS ANCILLARY TO EDUCATION, AND TRANSPORTATION, WHETHER PROVIDED AS PART OF OR ADDITIONAL TO REGULAR CLASSROOM PLACEMENT OR IN SEPARATE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CLASSES OR FACILITIES. SUCH APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO BEGIN AS SOON AS THE CHILD CAN BENEFIT FROM THEM, WHETHER OR NOT HE IS OF REGULAR SCHOOL AGE. THE STANDARDS SHALL INCLUDE (1) QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL, PARAPROFESSIONAL, AND NON-PROFESSIONAL PERSONS, (2) PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING, TESTING, AND DIAGNOSING CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, (3) GUIDELINES FOR CURRICULA, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, AND THE ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND SUPERVISION OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING ACCOUNTING, AUDITING, AND REPORTING PROCEDURES, (4) ENCOURAGEMENT OF LOCAL, REGIONAL, OR STATE DAY AND RESIDENTIAL CENTERS WHERE EDUCATIONALLY AND FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE, PROVISION FOR LOCAL, REGIONAL AND/OR STATE DAY AND RESIDENTIAL CENTERS FOR CHILDREN WHO CANNOT REASONABLY BE SERVED IN THE REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND (5) COORDINATION OF SUCH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES WITH SERVICES RENDERED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, AND (6) PROVISION FOR LOCAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COST OF THE PROGRAM CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, AND (6) STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL OF PLACEMENT IN NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR FACILITIES WHEN NO SUITABLE PUBLIC PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE. PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THESE STANDARDS, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL CONSULT WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONCERNED WITH AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

(B) UPON THE ADOPTION OF STANDARDS BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, EACH LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL PROMPTLY AND DILIGENTLY DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUCH STANDARDS. SUCH PLAN SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE EDUCATION OF ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED, WHOSE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS ARE DOMICILED WITHIN THE COUNTY. PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL PLAN, THE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION