

[(b)](A) (1) Each year the Governor shall place an item in the State budget for the education and training of [handicapped] children WITH DISABILITIES who are under the age of 6.

(2) The appropriation by the General Assembly shall be spent under the supervision and control of the Department.

[(c)](B) The Department shall adopt standards and issue rules and regulations based on these standards for:

(1) [Nonmedical examination] IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION, [classification] EARLY INTERVENTION, and education of [handicapped] children WITH DISABILITIES;

(2) Qualifications of SERVICE PROVIDERS AND teachers;

(3) Curriculum and equipment; and

(4) General supervision and operation of the program provided in this section.

8-412.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Child" means an individual under the age of 21 who:

(i) Has been determined through appropriate procedures to be disabled and in need of special education; or

(ii) Is believed to be disabled and in need of special education.

(3) "Educational decision making process" means all procedures relating to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a child and the provision of a free appropriate public education, including the appeal procedures provided for by § 8-413 of this article.

(4) "Local school superintendent" means the school system superintendent or any individual in charge of a system or program that provides educational services to children.

(5) "Parent" means:

(i) A child's natural parents;

(ii) A guardian;

(iii) A person acting as a parent of a child such as a relative or a stepparent with whom a child lives including those relatives or stepparents who are the foster parents; or

(iv) Any other individual who is legally responsible for a child's welfare.