Mandatory Special Education Services

The Michigan Department of Education and State Board of Education Special Education Programs and Services Act 451, as amended by the State Board of Education, August 1982 (Mandatory Special Education Act):

Requires that local and/or Intermediate School Districts shall provide or contract for the delivery of special education programs and services to all students with disabilities from birth through age 25 or until they have graduated from high school or an equivalent program. Children birth through age three may be eligible for Early On Services which do not require special education eligibility, but may include children with developmental delays or pre-established conditions.

Students with disabilities are eligible for services under the following categories which include: cognitive impairment, emotional impairment, hearing impairment, visual impairment, deaf-blindness, physical impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disabilities, severe multiple impairment, early childhood developmental delay, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, and speech and language impairment.

Children with developmental delays or pre-established conditions may be eligible for Early On Services. The pre-established conditions include: congenital anomalies, chromosomal anomalies, infectious conditions, endocrine/metabolic disorders, hearing deficiency, other fetal/placental anomalies, exposures affecting fetus/child, chronic illness, mental health conditions, and other developmental delays/other disorders and diseases.

Referral of handicapped persons may be made by a parent or guardian or, with the consent of parent or guardian, by appropriate professional personnel, to the local school principal or the Director of Special Education, Marquette Alger Regional Educational Service Agency 321 East Ohio Street, Marquette, Michigan 49855. Phone (906) 226-5160.

Federal and state special education project applications for IDEA Funds and Title I funds are available for public inspection in accordance with board policy at the Marquette Alger Regional Educational Service Agency 321 East Ohio Street, Marquette, Michigan 49855.