

RESOURCE SPECIALISTS PROGRAM/CASELOADS

56195.8(b)(4), 56362

POLICY

The continuum of programs available with this Special Education Local Plan Area includes Resource Specialist Program, Designated Instruction and Services, Special Classes and Centers, non-public schools, state special schools and instruction in settings other than classrooms where specially designed instruction may occur. These programs options are provided to eligible students ages birth to 22 years as appropriate to the implementation of an individualized education program.

PROCEDURES

One of the placement options of the IEP team is the Resource Specialist Program, which provides instruction to students who spend a majority of the school day in the regular classroom. Resource Specialist Program is staffed with a resource specialist and an aide, as prescribed by law. **The caseload of the resource specialist shall not exceed 28 pupils. Caseloads are monitored via the casemis program.** The resource specialist works with those pupils who are identified by the IEP team and have a written individualized education program. The manner in which the resource specialist provides direct services to these individuals is on a one-to-one or group basis. Instruction occurs in an appropriate educational setting and may include the regular classroom. The resource specialist, with other IEP team members, defines specific goals and objectives in the written individualized education program and participates in the annual review, triennial review and any special review of the pupil's progress.

In addition to direct instruction and services to individuals with exceptional needs, the resource specialist also provides the following services:

- Provides consultation, resource information, and material regarding individuals with exceptional needs to parents and regular education teachers.
- Coordinates special education services with regular and preschool programs.
- Monitors pupil progress, participates in review and revision of individualized education programs, and refers pupils who do not show progress back to the IEP teams.

- Provides emphasis at the secondary level on academic achievement, career and vocational development, and preparation for adult life.
- Monitors laws, regulations, and other compliance requirements.

Resource specialists are credentialed special education teachers who hold a valid credential as defined by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Resource specialists are hired according to standard personnel procedures.

The competencies required for the resource specialist may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Strong communication abilities
- Understanding of general testing concepts, methods
- Behavioral analysis and positive intervention
- Ability to consult with professionals
- Ability to diagnose and provide remediation of: reading, spelling, writing, mathematics; and positive interventions for students with delayed auditory and visual perception, eye-hand coordination and/or gross motor coordination.