



## FANNIN COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION SSA

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*Serving Bonham, Dodd City, Ector, Fannindel, Honey Grove, Leonard, Sam Rayburn, Savoy & Trenton ISDs*

**TO:** Private/Home School Providers  
**FROM:** Sara Baker, Director of Special Education  
**DATE:** July 1, 2008  
**SUBJECT:** Private/Home School Students

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to notify private schools and/or home schooled facilities that Fannin County Special Education Shared Service Arrangement (FCSSA) does have a system to identify, locate, evaluate, and serve special education students who currently attend a private school located within the jurisdiction of FCSSA. This will include those students with disabilities attending religiously affiliated schools and students who are home schooled. Referral and evaluation will be conducted in the same manner as other students in public schools.

On an ongoing basis, representatives of private schools are invited to a face to face meeting to discuss child find activities and participate in consultation regarding: Child Find, Proportionate share of funds, consultation process, provision of special education and related services, and written explanation by FCSSA.

Private school personnel or the parent may contact the student's home campus to request an evaluation for special education services. The home campus educational diagnostician, program coordinator and/or speech pathologist will gather the referral information and conduct the evaluation on the home campus in the same manner as other students. The initial ARD committee meeting is held at the home campus to determine eligibility and develop an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) including placement options that FCSSA is willing to provide. Parents will make the choice between public school services and private school services.

All eligible private school students will be considered for participation in special education services using proportionate share amount. No individual child has a right to participate or a guarantee of being designated to receive services. If the student is designated to participate he or she has no right to the same type or amount of services the student would have received if the child had enrolled in the public school system.

For a child age birth through twenty-one who resides within FCSSA jurisdiction, the ARD committee will decide whether an IEP will be developed even if the parent clearly indicates the child will not be enrolled in private school. Eligible private school students will be given the same opportunity for re-evaluation and annual ARD committee meetings as all other FCSSA special education students.

Fannin County Shared Service Arrangement (FCSSA) will calculate the proportionate share of IDEA-B funds using the Texas Education Agency (TEA) formula, based on the student count as of TEA date. Data will be based on the previous school year student count. FCSSA will make the final decision on who participates and the decision will be made on a yearly basis. Eligible private school students who move into FCSSA jurisdiction after service plans are developed, will have no entitlement to participate, but will be considered on a case by case basis. Based on the proportionate share (calculated on an annual basis) FCSSA will annually determine how many students will be served and the amount of time to be served.

Individual service plans will be in place before the beginning of the school year or before services begin. Individual plans will be implemented as soon as possible after development. The plans will be made available to

all staff responsible for implementing the plan, the plans will be reviewed periodically, but at least annually. Students with a plan in one school year have no entitlement to participate the next year.

All private/home school students will have available an individual service plan team. The team is the same as the ARD committee plus a representative of the private school. The general education teacher may be an employee of the private school or the home school parent. Notice will be given to the parent regarding a mutually convenient time and place of the meeting. FCSSA will use the 5 school day notice rule. FCSSA will follow the same procedure as for ARD committee meetings to hold the service plan meeting without the parent. FCSSA will provide a copy of the service plan to the parent. The service plan will describe the specific special education and related services that FCSSA will provide. The service plan will specify where the services will be provided and will also address transportation for the student.

Equipment and supplies may be placed at the private/home school as determined by FCSSA. The equipment and supplies will remain FCSSA property and under the control of FCSSA. The equipment and supplies may only be used to serve the specific eligible private/home schooled student. The equipment and supplies should be removed promptly when no longer needed. FCSSA may remove the equipment and supplies if it determines they are being used for other purposes than serving the specific eligible student.

Parents of a private school student may request a due process hearing related to the identification or evaluation of the child. Due process hearings relating to educational placement or the provision of FAPE are not available to parents who voluntarily place their child in a private school. Parents can only file a complaint with TEA about the nature or implementation of a service plan, or that an eligible private school student was not designated to participate in the program funded by the proportionate share in a specific school year.

FCSSA's home campus diagnostician, program coordinator and/or speech therapist shall also ensure that each teacher who provides instruction to a student with disabilities: receives relevant sections of the student's IEP, be informed of specific responsibilities related to implementing the IEP, such as: goals, benchmarks, objectives, behavior plans, needed accommodations/adaptations and/or educational, behavioral, or health supports for the student.

For additional information concerning this letter on private/home school services please call me.

Sincerely,

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