

**POLICY TITLE: APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT AT COSSA ACADEMY**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS**

Special Education students (those students served through an IEP) may be eligible for enrollment at the COSSA Academy (Alternative Education Programs). However, not all special education students are appropriate candidates for the alternative school program and the special education services that are available through the alternative education setting. Some special education students have been successful at the COSSA Academy, however, many special education students may need the level of support services that are available in their current school placement.

Unless determined by a sufficiency review or an IEP team has clear or overwhelming evidence to support placement of students within the restrictive environments of the special education programs located at the academy, special education students should be enrolled directly at their district of residence and not sent for immediate referral for academy placement. Referral to the academy for other general education placement considerations, including at-risk status, must wait until the completion of a sufficiency review and/or additional assessments and creation of an updated IEP.

At the point of a completed sufficiency review and updated IEP are implemented, the local district should follow the procedures set forth below to refer a special education student to the Academy. This can be done in conjunction with the IEP process regarding sufficiency review to prevent the need for additional IEP meetings. This means that an IEP team meeting to implement a new IEP based on the sufficiency review process can include discussion about referral and enrollment at the Academy based on evidence collected by the referring district in the interim, even though a student may not start at the academy until the completion of the current grading period.

If the team determines that the special education student should enroll at the Academy based on the home district referral, the student should remain at the home district and continue to receive support and services until the start of the next grading cycle at the Academy to ensure appropriate placement and opportunities to receive credit. Consideration should be given during these meetings to goals, services, and placement as they relate to the current IEP and amended as necessary.

**PROCEDURE**

The following procedures must be followed regarding special education students and their referral for enrollment at COSSA Academy.

1. An IEP Team meeting must be held, prior to enrolling at COSSA Academy, to consider a change of placement from the current educational placement to COSSA Academy.

2. The following team members will be invited to the meeting:

- Parent(s)
- Student
- Special Education Teacher (current placement)
- Special Education Teacher (representing the Academy)
- Administrator (Sending school Principal or Designee)
- COSSA Academy Administrator or Designee
- COSSA Special Education Director or Designee

3. A review of the student's educational needs will be conducted to include:

- Special Education Eligibility
- Intellectual abilities
- Academic abilities
- Special Education needs
- Accommodations/Adaptations to the general education curriculum required
- Special Education services currently being provided
- Attendance
- Social/Emotional/Behavioral concerns
- At-risk eligibility

4. COSSA Academy Administrator/Designee will review:

- School policies
- Student expectations

5. The IEP Team will determine if placement at COSSA Academy is appropriate or if the student should remain in the current educational placement.

*Please note: These procedures apply only to special education students who are not placed, through the IEP process, in the Secondary TLC Program (ED) and High School Extended Resource Room (ERR) which are "housed" at the COSSA Academy.*

For more information, please contact the COSSA Special Education Director.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

**I.C. § 33-1001      Foundation Program - State Aid- Apportionment**  
**I.C. § 33-2002      Education of Exceptional Children**

**POLICY HISTORY:**

**Adopted:      January 19, 2022**