

## SCHOOL AGE SERVICES

### A. Minimum Standards

The School Age Program shall be provided as a separate public school on the continuum of alternative placements available to meet the needs of students throughout the county with significant disabilities for special education and related services.

The School Age Program shall adhere to all school requirements outlined in the minimum standards for chartering county board of developmental disabilities special education schools (Ref.: OAC 3301-53-01). The minimum school requirements include:

1. Hours in a school year (ORC 3313.48);
2. Required immunizations (ORC 3313.67);
3. Emergency medical authorization (ORC 3313.712);
4. Nursing services (ORC 3313.72);
5. Safeguarding of student records (ORC 3319.321);
6. Student attendance (ORC 3321.04);
7. Education of children with disabilities (ORC Chapter 3323);
8. Inspection of schools by the board of health (ORC 3707.26);
9. A Safety Plan including drills and rapid dismissals (ORC 3737.73); and
10. Operating Standards for Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade (OAC 3301-35-01).

### B. Model Policies

With the adoption of this policy, the Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities is adopting written policies regarding the manner in which the School Age Program fulfills its obligations under the Public Law Number 94-142 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) and as amended and the *Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities* found in Ohio Administrative Code Rules 3301-51-01 to 09, 11 and 21, effective July 1, 2014, (hereafter referred to as the "Operating Standards"). The Operating Standards require that the Board adopt written policies in a number of different areas, and the Board has chosen to adopt the July 1, 2009 document entitled *Special Education Model Policies Procedures* as promulgated by the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Exceptional Children (ODE-OEC) in order to satisfy these requirements of the Operating Standards. This document, hereafter referred to as "Appendix A," while comprehensive, does not include every requirement set forth in the IDEA, the regulations implementing IDEA, the

Operating Standards, the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and/or Ohio the Administrative Code (OAC). The Board recognizes its obligation to follow these laws and have them implemented in the School Age Program, regardless of whether their provisions are restated Appendix A. (Ref.: OAC Chapter 3301-51)

### C. Eligibility

To be eligible for admission to the School Age Program, an individual shall be:

1. At least five and not yet twenty-two years of age, if such placement is deemed appropriate through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process;
2. Recommended for placement in the program as the least restrictive environment by the school district of residence (hereafter referred to as “the District”) in accordance with OAC 3301-51-02 to make a Free Appropriate Public Education available to each eligible child; and
3. Determined eligible to receive services from the Lawrence County DD.

D. Attendance

Attendance is required in the School Age Program to foster students’ academic success. The School will partner with the student, their family and resident district to identify and reduce barriers to regular school attendance. The School will utilize a continuum of strategies to reduce student absence in alignment with House Bill 410 (2016) as follows:

1. Daily student attendance, late arrivals and early dismissals will be documented in hours not days.
2. The definition of truancy and excessive absences will be adhered to as stated in HB 410 and procedures will include steps to engage the student and family before filing a complaint with juvenile court including parent notification, an absence intervention team and an absence intervention plan.

E. Curriculum

1. The School Age Program includes classroom, small group and individual instruction providing a comprehensive educational and habilitation program for students with disabilities in accordance with Ohio’s academic extended content standards as applicable to each student. The School shall implement a curriculum and instructional program that is characterized by systematic planning, articulation and evaluation based on those subjects required by the Ohio Revised Code, student grade level requirements and individual need. Teachers will establish and communicate clear, high expectations for academic performance, attendance and conduct for all students regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, English proficiency or disability. The School shall diagnose and assess the needs of students, monitor and analyze performance, continually improve programs and procedures to better meet student needs (OAC 3301-35-04).
2. The prescribed curriculum will be based on the requirements of ORC 3313.60 in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate using researched-based strategies that are effective for educating the student based on individual need.

3. The School Age Program administration and teachers will ensure that every student receives an education that fulfills the graduation requirements outlined in ORC 3313.603 based on the academic extended content standards and IEP for each student.
4. Activities that are part of a functional curriculum are to be blended with the skills and objectives in Ohio's *Academic Content Standards-Extended* to increase functional performance for transition to life beyond school age services.
5. Related services are to be provided to students based on individual need in the areas of speech and communication, occupational and physical therapy.

F. Use of Assessments

Professional development for staff that teaches accepted standards of practice in the selection, administration, interpretation, and use of assessments will be provided annually.

1. The professional development will include assessment practices that, when used to qualify students for graduation, promotion, special programs or services, conform to current professional standards for validity and reliability.
2. Multiple and appropriate assessments shall be used to measure student progress.
3. The information will be shared with parents, the student and the community regarding assessment purposes and results. (Ref.: OAC 3301-35-04-B)

G. Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports

The Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities has adopted the Ohio Department of Education's Model Policy and Procedures document, referenced here as Appendix B, which applies to all school districts regarding the use of positive behavior intervention and supports (PBIS), and the limited use of restraint and seclusion. (Ref.: OAC 3301-35-15) These procedures and any additional ones deemed necessary by the administration shall be used in the implementation of all aspects of school PBIS. This includes measures to ensure an appropriate number of personnel are trained in crisis management and de-escalation techniques.

H. Complaint Resolution

Complaints regarding School Age Services will be processed through the local educational agency of the student in accordance with the procedures specified in Appendix A.

I. This policy does not include all topics related to school operations. If a topic is not included in the School policy or its addendums, then other policies of the Board may apply. Many topics concerning health and safety, for instance, may be found in Policy 4.03 Addressing General Health and Well-Being in Facilities of the County Board.

J. Professional Development

Information regarding the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC), as it relates to Ohio Department of Education teacher licensure, is available in the LPDC procedure manual a copy of which is to be kept in the school office.

Written procedures shall also be developed regarding a planned sequence of continuing education and annual training opportunities specifically for paraprofessional members of staff.

**See also Appendix A and Appendix B**

Adopted: 12/11/18