

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND FOURTEEN

—
S.P. 703 - L.D. 1769

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Report Defining Cost Responsibility for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Students Receiving Services from the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §7403, as amended by PL 2011, c. 683, §2, is further amended to read:

§7403. Responsibility; location; geographic access

~~The center school is responsible for providing a free, appropriate public education to students enrolled pursuant to chapter 301.~~ The center school programs are operated by the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf located on Mackworth Island or at a location determined by the school board in accordance with section 7407, subsection 17. Satellite school programs, including a residential program in accordance with section 7407, subsection 17, may be located near the population centers of deaf and hard-of-hearing students within the State.

1. Responsibility; repeal. The center school is responsible for providing a free, appropriate public education to students placed pursuant to chapter 301.

This subsection is repealed July 1, 2015.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §7405, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Repeal. This section is repealed July 1, 2015.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §7405-A is enacted to read:

§7405-A. Placement; state and federal educational services requirements; technical assistance

Beginning July 1, 2015, the following provisions apply to student placement, state and federal educational services requirements and technical assistance.

1. Placement. The school administrative unit in which a deaf or hard-of-hearing student resides is responsible for providing a free, appropriate public education pursuant to chapter 301 for a student placed in the center school or in one of the satellite school programs. An individualized education program team for a school administrative unit in which a deaf or hard-of-hearing student resides is responsible for the placement decision of that student and, when the center school or one of the satellite school programs is being considered as a placement for the student, shall invite a representative of the center school or the satellite school to attend the individualized education program team meeting at which this placement is being considered. The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is responsible for the sums necessary to ensure that the services required to meet the individualized education program for each student placed in the center school or in one of the satellite school programs are provided, including:

A. The cost of tuition; and

B. The costs of transportation and other related services as defined by section 7001, subsection 4-B, including the following related services:

(1) Speech-language therapy;

(2) Audiology in conjunction with the student's primary audiologist;

(3) Occupational therapy;

(4) Transportation;

(5) Interpreting services;

(6) Extended school year services;

(7) Frequency modulation systems;

(8) Evaluation for the following services:

(a) Occupational therapy;

(b) Speech-language therapy;

(c) American Sign Language;

(d) Psychoeducational assessment for placement; and

(e) Academic achievement; and

(9) Behavioral supports and planning.

Beginning July 1, 2015, the costs of related services not listed in this paragraph are the responsibility of the school administrative unit in which a deaf or hard-of-hearing student resides for those students attending the center school or in one of the satellite school programs operated by the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of

Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

The school board shall pay the room and board costs for each student placed in a residential program in the center school or in one of the satellite school programs through funds appropriated by the State.

2. State and federal educational services requirements. The center school, center preschool and any satellite school shall comply with all standards for state public schools and shall comply with all federal and state laws and department rules for the provision of educational services to children with disabilities.

3. Technical assistance. A school administrative unit may request technical assistance from the school in matters relating to the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing students.