Article 421 – Programs for Children At-Risk

The Board shall serve children in the Sparta Area School District who are identified as “Children At-Risk” in accordance with state statute (Section 118.153) and identified District procedures.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, school officials will develop a list of students in grades 5 – 12 identified as at-risk of not graduating from high school according the following criteria:

- Have dropped out of school
- Are one or more years behind their age group in the number of high school credits attained
- Are two or more years behind their age group in reading and math skill levels
- Have been referred to the Corporate Counsel or the Sparta Police Department as an habitual truant
- Are school age parents
- Are adjudicated delinquents
- Are eighth grade pupils whose score in each subject area on the WSAS exam was below the basic level and were retained in the eighth grade.

To be considered at-risk under statute and Board policy, students must meet criteria ‘a’, or two of the criteria listed in b-g.

When addressing the needs of at-risk students, the District will consider the following:

- Curriculum modifications
- Adaptive instructional strategies
- Pupil Services support
- Community services
- School to work programs
- Alternative education programs
- Other developmentally appropriate school programs and services.

The District’s At-Risk Curriculum Subcommittee shall develop and maintain a list of school programs and services beneficial to addressing the needs of at-risk students.

Students identified as being at-risk and their parents/guardians will be notified in writing by the building principal and will receive a list of recommended school programs and services available to assist them. At-risk students who are recommended for a program through this process, who meet prerequisite requirements, and desire admission will be given priority consideration for programs with limited capacity.

It is the responsibility of the building principal, working with appropriate staff, to ensure the proper identification of at-risk students within their buildings, and develop a plan according to this policy to address the needs of the student. The Sparta Teacher Assistance Team (S.T.A.T) is a vital component of this process. The STAT form documents strategies and interventions that have been implemented and can help guide staff in selecting the most individually appropriate and effective at-risk programs. The S.T.A.T. will meet at least annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the at-risk interventions.
Public Notice:

“Children At-Risk” means dropouts, pupils who have been absent from school without acceptable excuses, pupils who are parents and pupils who have been adjudicated delinquent, who are also one of more years behind their age group in the number of credits attained or in basic skill levels. All “At-Risk” children enrolled in the District shall have access to a program for “Children At-Risk”. Upon request, an individualized program shall be developed. Programs shall be designed to allow the pupil to meet graduation requirements. The district may contract with private, non-profit, non-sectarian agencies to meet its requirements of “Children At-Risk” enrolled in the school district.

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference:

Approved: March 25, 2003

Revised: