

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS / RIGHTS OF DISABLED STUDENTS

The Pitt County Board of Education requires that all special education programs that are operated in this school district be in compliance with *Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Special Needs* as adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

All children with disabilities will be accorded procedural rights and safeguards as required by federal and state law.

The Board encourages parents, guardians, surrogate parents, custodians and eligible students of majority age to seek informal resolution of disputes or disagreements regarding the identification of children with special needs and the provision of a free appropriate public education before filing a request for formal administrative review.

Mediation, as provided in G. S. 115C-116(b) and in *Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Special Needs* is available as one mechanism to clarify the concerns of parents and to resolve disputes.