

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

Course Syllabus

LEAD 6008 **Foundations of Special Education Administration**

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This course meets for eight 4 hour sessions at the Pattonville Learning Center, 11097 St. Charles Rock Road. Classes are scheduled on Wednesdays, June 2 through July 25.

Course Description

Examination of the role and responsibilities of the administrator, director, or supervisor of special education at the school district, state and federal levels. Statutory requirements, fiscal basis, organizational structures, relationship to general school administration, instructional and related services delivery systems are explored. Current issues in the field of special education will also be explored.

Competencies

Course Content Standards

1. Develop knowledge of federal and state special education laws.
2. Analyze and synthesize the integral elements of effective policy in special education, including the role of economics, families, professional organizations, and legislative action.
3. Analyze the function of state and federal regulatory agencies related to individual with disabilities.
4. Synthesize research and literature sources for a better understanding of contemporary issues in special education.
5. Demonstrate skills in determining community and multicultural factors which affect the delivery of special education programs.
6. Identify organizational alternatives in special education service delivery including services in public, private and parochial schools and agencies.
7. Awareness and application of best practices which facilitate the development, implementation and evaluation of special education programs in the context of curriculum and instruction.

8. Understand and apply best practices in the administration and staffing of special education programs.
9. Demonstrate the ability to effectively utilize a variety of problem solving, conflict resolution and decision making processes.

Text

Final Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, E.S. Department of Education (available at www.dese.state.mo.us - Special Education/Resources/Laws and Legislation)

State Plan for IDEA, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (available at www.dese.state.mo.us - Special Education/Resource/Laws and Legislation)

Selected Readings provided by the instructor

United States Congress, House of Representatives. House Bill 1350, Improving the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 2003.

Course Outline

Week 1

- Introduction and overview of the course
- Conceptual framework of the course
- Historical and philosophic foundations of special education
- Role of the Special Education Administrator
- Legal Foundations for special education
- Defining priority areas for the course

Assignment – Written reflections regarding the rights of students and parents to a free appropriate special education program

Week 2

- The Law and special needs students
 - Legislation including IDEA, FERPA, Rehabilitation Act, Section 504, ADA - - General overview
 - State Guidelines / Monitoring
 - Litigation – state and federal case law
 - Introduction to IDEA

Assignment – A written summary of interviews of local administrators to identify their concerns and issues in the delivery of special education services.

Week 3

- IDEA 97
 - Review of the provisions of the law which pertain to access to general education, participation of students with disabilities in statewide and district assessments, discipline of students with disabilities, parent involvement.

Assignment - If you were “monarch for a day” what components of IDEA would you change and in what way. How would your changes improve educational services.

Week 4

- Service delivery models and concepts
 - A review of the delivery systems in place in public schools. Class members will present the organization of services in their schools and share the rationale for the model.
 - Discussion regarding inclusionary placement practices from selected readings.

Assignment - Written reflections - - what would you change regarding the service delivery system in place in your district? How would those changes impact on the learning of the students?

Review of selected readings provided by the instructor

Week 5

- Inclusion for Students with Disabilities – What Is It
 - A philosophy or a placement
 - What are the benefits
 - What are the obstacles
 - What does it look like for the students, staff and parents
 - What are the administrative and leadership requirements

- * Transition Requirements for IDEA
 - Regulatory Requirements
 - Local School Responsibilities
 - Outside Agency Responsibilities

Assignment - Personal reflection regarding inclusion. Discuss how this concept might be applied in your school and what issues you would face in leading a staff to adopt a more inclusionary model of services.

Week 6

- Funding of Special Education services
 - State and federal funding sources
 - State requirements

Assignment - From data provided by the instructor, students will provide estimates of the number of staff needed to provide special education services for a hypothetical district and estimate the revenues which would be generated.

Week 7

- Special Education Services for Children Under the Age of Five
 - Part C Services for Infants and Toddlers

- Service delivery systems
- Funding
- Personnel Development
- Services for Children 3 – Years of Age
 - Service delivery systems
 - Funding
 - Personnel Development

Week 8

- Issues in the Reauthorization of IDEA
 - Funding of Special Education
 - Minority Representation in Special Education
 - Discipline for Students with Disabilities
 - Paperwork
 - School Reform
 - Advocacy and Parent Involvement