



Policy for Enrolling Children with Special Needs

Each child is a gift of God and made in His image; each child is born to serve Him in his or her own unique way. Without exception, each child can enrich the life of a Christian community. Thus each child with exceptionalities is as much the responsibility of the Christian community as any other child.

1. TBCS will enroll a child with special needs only if it can be determined that the school can fully anticipate meeting all the needs of the child. TBCS is committed to providing quality education to all children enrolled. TBCS will therefore not agree to enrolling a child if it is determined that TBCS can provide only for part of the child's needs.
2. When it is determined that a TA (Teacher Assistant) is needed for an individual child, the parent(s) will provide the school with the funds to hire such a TA. TBCS will assume other costs related to limited resources teacher's time and the administrative time associated with the child with special needs.
3. The decision to enroll a child with special needs will be contingent on an agreement by the parents to pay the TA costs, where it is determined by the administration and the Resource teacher that the child's other needs can be met within the Resource teacher's limits (e.g. three 30 minute periods per week for any one child), so that the school can fully meet the child's needs.
4. TBCS will provide clear assessment and termination procedures. The school will insist that full information regarding the child's needs are provided. This may involve the parent(s) providing the results of tests such as those done by qualified psychologists and psychometrists. Once these tests have been completed, the school will be transparent, in turn, to the parents regarding what the school can provide for their child.
5. Parents must be in full agreement as to what the school will provide for their child.
6. Assessments of whether the school can continue to provide for the child's needs will be done regularly. The child will be placed on probation for the first year, with scheduled assessments done at 3, 6 and 9 months and at one year. The school has the option of terminating the arrangement after each of these assessment periods and thereafter as required.
7. If a child should require a PSW (Personal Support Worker), the decision to enroll the child will be contingent on an agreement by an external agency to pay the costs of the PSW, where it is determined by the administration and the Resource teacher that the child's needs can be met under the normal limitations of the school so that the school can fully meet the child's needs. It will be established in advance that, if that external agency discontinues its funding, and the parents cannot find funding elsewhere, enrolment will be discontinued.
8. When it is decided that a student will require more resource time than that which can be regularly allotted to a child at TBCS, the Board will go through the following steps in order to ascertain funding and enrolment:
 - a. The family is informed as to what the school can offer.
 - b. The family is informed that they will be responsible for extra resource costs, i.e., an TA., transportation.
 - c. If the family cannot obtain necessary funding to cover costs, enrolment will be declined.



Rationale:

1. Over the last few years, TBCS has experienced requests for enrolment from families who had children with special needs. This situation has challenged the Board to question who is ultimately responsible for children in the community with extra-ordinary special needs. It is our opinion that parents are ultimately responsible for any resource help beyond that which is pre-determined to be normal (three 30 minute periods). When help beyond three 30 minute periods per week will be required, parents will be asked to find funding for extra resource (TA) help.
2. We believe that it is not within the mandate of the school to provide funding for students with extra-ordinary special needs. Providing such help is more suitably the function of the family and the church.
3. TBCS is committed to providing quality education to all children enrolled.
4. Enrolment of any child depends finally upon the school's ability to provide the services.
5. Any decision to enroll a child with special needs should always be based initially upon a report regarding the child's needs. Such a report should be generated by the principal with the assistance of the resource teacher. This report should be based upon thorough and reliable information provided by parents and by other professionals as determined by the Administration