

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Whereas public education is a fundamental right of all children and whereas every child is entitled to an equal opportunity to obtain an education, the SPEED education community upholds the following tenets as the basis for decisions regarding all children, and especially those with special learning needs:

All children are to be valued equally.

All children can learn and can thereby profit from educational services.

All professionals working in the SPEED educational community must strive to create a match among the needs of the children, best professional practice, and the recognized needs of the education community.

Special education is one appropriate means of increasing to the maximum the capacity of the system to serve the needs of all children.

Cooperation with other human service agencies will help achieve comprehensive child-centered services.

In all matters, the needs of children must have priority over the needs and convenience of the SPEED educational community.

Families are important in the educational process and must be central to this process.

Individual programs must be developed by both regular and special education on the basis of varied information from multiple sources. These programs must portray a comprehensive and accurate view of the child and his/her needs and abilities.

Students with unique learning needs must be served in the least restrictive environment appropriate to meet those needs.

The purpose of education is to increase the ability of students to function independently and productively in the many environments in which other members of society function independently.

Early identification and intervention increases the likelihood of successfully addressing the cognitive, social/behavioral, affective, and physical needs of students.

To facilitate the exercise of these tenets, the SPEED education community shall be in compliance with all existing laws and regulations.