**Private Placement**

Parental Placement in Private Religious School

Under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), school districts are responsible for conducting “child find” activities for students placed by their parents in religious schools. When parents or staff request assessment of a student in private, religious school, the school district (BOCES) is responsible for determining if the student is eligible for special education programs or services. If the student is found to be eligible for special education, the school district will offer placement at the local public school and draft an appropriate Individualized Education Program (IEP). The parent may elect to place the student at the public school or may decline placement and retain the student in private, religious school.

School districts are obligated to provide special education services to private, religious schools, but only up to a formula-driven dollar amount based upon the proportion of federal funds represented by the total number of identified special education students enrolled in private schools compared with the total number identified special education students within the school district. Districts/BOCES can determine how to spend the formula-driven funding on special education students enrolled in private, religious schools.

A student with a disability who is placed by his/her parents in a private school has no individual legal entitlement to receive some or all of the special education and related service they would receive if enrolled in a public school. The team will need to develop a service plan instead of an IEP.

Services that can be provided through this resource-allocation are:

1. Special Education Teachers

\*\*\* Services offered from related service staff will depend on the availability of service provider. High caseloads may cause a related service to not be available for private school students.

It is best practice to write both an IEP and the service plan and discuss the differences in services as outlined in the 2 documents. The signature on the service plan represents the parents request to receive services as agreed in the service plan and accept the denial of FAPE as would have been provided through the IEP.

Below is a Service Plan form to return to the director of special education so that this resource-allocation can be tracked.

Private Placement services will be offered to students aged 6 and above. To access services for preschool, students must be enrolled in a publicly funded program.

Enrich does not allow a Service Plan AND IEP to be held in the system simultaneously. The IEP can be written and uploaded.

**SLV BOCES staff should monthly submit documentation of services they provide to students in private placement on a monthly basis. See form below:**