

School Committee Item gb #3-62: To review the January 25, 2013 guidance letter of the Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education regarding participation of students with disabilities in extracurricular activities, and to determine whether any actions should be taken by the Worcester Public Schools in response to it.

Motion: Request that the Administration work with the Special Education Parent Advisory Council to inform the members regarding the guidance letter of the Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education.

Response:

- The Athletic Director, the Manager of Special Education and the Quadrant Manager reviewed the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Guidance Letter.
- The Athletic Director reviewed the (OCR) Guidance Letter with all Athletic Liaisons
- All Athletic Liaisons received a copy of the OCR Guidance Letter.
- Key points are reviewed with all coaches at their mandatory meetings at the start of each season.
- All principals received the OCR Guidance Letter and key points for their attention at the start of the 2013-2014 school year.
- Principals will consult with the Athletic Director and the Manager of Special Education when a request/or question concerning participation arises.

Motion Response:

- The Manager of Special Education , Athletic Director and the Quadrant Manager reviewed the Office of Civil Rights Guidance Letter and developed action steps to disseminate this regulation to school personnel and parents
- September 2013 – Manager of Special Education forward a copy of the Office of Civil Rights Guidance Letter to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council Officers
- Manager of Special Education met with Special Education Parent Advisory Council Officers on September 30, 2013 to review the Office of Civil Rights Guidance Letter
- October 16, 2013 – A copy of the Office of Civil Rights Guidance Letter was distributed out to parents during the Special Education Parent Advisory Meeting
- The Special Education Department will support schools and collaborate with the Athletic Director, Athletic Liaisons, to monitor the compliance of the implementation of the Office of Civil Rights Guidance Letter to insure access for students with disabilities.
- Manager of Special Education will monitor and support schools to ensure that the district “afford qualified students with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in extracurricular athletics in an integrated manner to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student.”
(34 C.F.R.104.37(a),(c))