

GROUPING

STUDENTS SHALL NOT BE ASSIGNED TO ABILITY GROUPS, TRACKS, SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSES, CLASSES FOR THE MENTALLY RETAINED, OR OTHER CURRICULAR OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, SEX OR NATIONAL ORIGIN UNLESS SUCH ASSIGNMENT CAN BE JUSTIFIED EDUCATIONALLY UNDER SUCH CRITERIA AS SHALL BE SET FORTH UNDER FEDERAL LAW, FLORIDA STATUTE, FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND/OR BOARD POLICY.

AUTHORITY: F.S. 230.22 (1) (2)
POLICY ADOPTED: 9/5/74

POLICY AMENDED: 6/5/80

RULES**Ability Grouping**

Ability grouping shall be defined as the practice of organizing classes in order to group together students who have nearly the same standing on measures and judgments of learning achievement or capability. Grouping or regrouping within a classroom for instruction in particular subjects shall not be considered ability grouping.

Separation of minority group students from nonminority group students may not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the school day classroom period. This shall not be construed to prohibit bona fide ability grouping based on pedagogical practice provided such grouping shall meet the following criteria:

1. The grouping shall be based upon nondiscriminatory objective standards of measurement which are educationally relevant to the grouping and do not essentially measure English language skills which would discriminate against minority groups.
2. The grouping as determined by criteria #1 above shall be maintained only for such portion of the school day classroom period as shall be necessary to achieve the purpose of such grouping.
3. Each group shall be designed to meet the special needs of the students participating in that group, and further shall be designed to improve the academic performance and achievement of the students within that group.
4. Groups designed to improve the academic performance and achievement of students determined to be in the less academically advanced groups must include provision for:
 - a. Specially developed curricula
 - b. Specially trained or certified personnel
 - c. Periodic retesting to determine academic programs
 - d. Eligibility for promotion
5. The educational benefits of all such grouping must be substantiated by test scores or other reliable objective evidence.

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