**24:05:25:05.  Eligibility and placement procedures.** In interpreting evaluation data for the purpose of determining eligibility and determining the educational needs of the child, in making placement decisions, including decisions regarding preschool children, each school district shall do the following:

 (1)  Draw upon information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, parent input, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior;

 (2)  Ensure that information obtained from all of these sources is documented and carefully considered;

 (3)  Ensure that the placement decision is made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options;

 (4)  Ensure that the placement decision is made in conformity with the least restrictive environment rules in chapter 24:05:28; and

 (5)  Ensure that the parents of each child with a disability are members of any group that makes decisions on the educational placement of their child.

 If a determination is made that a child is disabled and needs special education and related services, an individual education program must be developed for the child in accordance with this article.

 **Source:** 16 SDR 41, effective September 7, 1989; 23 SDR 31, effective September 8, 1996; 26 SDR 150, effective May 22, 2000; 33 SDR 236, effective July 5, 2007.

 **General Authority:** SDCL 13-37-1.1.

 **Law Implemented:** SDCL 13-37-1.1.