

Dover board briefed on special education plan

A comprehensive explanation of the special education plan in the Dover schools and details of its implementation were presented to the board of education Thursday night by Russell McGlothlin, elementary counselor.

McGlothlin explained that 269 students in the district are participating in special education programs this year. Of those, 248 are in educable mentally retarded (EMR), learning and behavioral disabilities (LBD) and speech and hearing programs within the schools or work with LBD tutors.

Of the remaining 21 students, 14 attend Starlight School and seven attend visually impaired or hearing impaired

programs in the Canton schools. Although these students do not attend classes in the Dover schools, the board is responsible for their education, he said.

He continued that the school is responsible for conducting in-school and out-of-school searches for children suspected of having problems which could be helped by special education programs. Children who are not in school often are reached through agencies which deal with people, such as the Maternal and Child Health Clinic, the welfare department, etc., McGlothlin added.

NEW STATE requirements, in-

corporated into Dover's program, will make screening procedures and conferences with parents more formal, because of paperwork involved, he explained.

Total operating costs for special education in the Dover district for the 1975-76 school year were \$166,210, he said. Of that \$28,846 was local money, while the remainder was reimbursed by the state.

Broken down, the operating costs represented \$154,149 for programs within the system, including teachers and support personnel; \$7691 for tuition (for children enrolled in programs outside the district), and \$4370 for trans-

portation of handicapped children.

The state also requires that a plan for full service — programs necessary to reach all handicapped children in the district — be prepared and submitted.

McGlothlin estimated that cost for full service would be \$218,000 with an anticipated income (state reimbursement) of \$183,000. That would leave a local share of \$35,000.

HE EXPLAINED that future programs with other public school systems, training programs or treatment agencies could be for gifted children and children with severe behavioral disabilities, the pre-schooler (Easter

Seal program) or involve the Tuscarawas Valley Mental Health Center's group home and residential treatment program.

McGlothlin said that children are placed away from the regular classroom only to the extent it is necessary for the student's educational success. He gave the following list of least restrictive education programs, arranged in a descending order:

Regular class, with physical accommodations and/or modified instruction, regular class and supplemental tutoring, part-time regular class and part-time special class, special class, separate school and home instruction.

Donna Moore, elementary coordinator, explained that for the 1977-78 school year it is hoped there will be two EMR units at the primary level and one each at the intermediate, junior high and senior high levels; three LBD units at the primary level, two at the intermediate and one at the junior high, and one and a half units of speech and hearing.

She explained that until it is determined how many children need the services in the next school year the number of LBD tutors will not be known. Those tutors were not rehired at the April 18 board meeting, but will be as needed.