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Special Education Eligibility

When a child turns age 3, he or she may be eligible for special education services through the local public school district. If you have any concerns, or know that your child has a disability, ask that your child be evaluated for special education and related services. A parent may refer a child to the local public school system for an initial educational evaluation by contacting the local school system and requesting an initial educational evaluation. The local public school system may also request to conduct an evaluation. A diagnosed disability does not automatically qualify a child for special education and related services. An educational evaluation is conducted to determine if the diagnosed or suspected disability adversely affects the student's educational performance. A child must be found eligible before special education and related services can be provided.

A child may be eligible for special education and related services if he or she has one or more of the following disabilities:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Blind or Low Vision
- Cognitive Disability
- Developmental Delay (early childhood)
- Deaf-Blind
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Emotional Disability

- Learning Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Specific Learning Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Language or Speech Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Orthopedic Impairment

Instruction and Services

Special education refers to individualized educational and related services for students with disabilities or significant delays. To determine what educational and related services a student will receive, a case conference committee will develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The IEP describes accommodations, modifications, and special education and related services that will be provided to the student. The IEP must be reviewed and updated by the case conference committee at least annually. Parents may request a case conference at any time to address a student's needs. They do not have to wait until the annual case review.

More on Other Side

Related Services

Related services provide extra help and support in needed areas, such as speaking or moving. Related services can include, but are not limited to, the following:

Speech-language and Audiology Services
Interpreting Services
Psychological Services
Physical and Occupational Therapy
Recreation
Counseling Services

Orientation and Mobility Services
Medical Services for Diagnosis or Evaluation
School Health and School Nurse Services
Social Work Services in Schools
Parent Counseling and Training
Transportation

Case Conference Committee

A case conference committee is a group of people, including school personnel and parents, who decides if a student is eligible for special education and what special education and related services will be provided to an eligible student, based on his or her needs.

504 Plans

If a student is not eligible for special education and related services, but due to a disability, still has some substantial limits in an area of major life function, a 504 plan may be appropriate. A 504 Plan can provide accommodations for a student to access the student's education, or the school setting, including extra-curricular activities, even when they do not have academic needs. Some examples of accommodations available under a 504 Plan may include, but are not limited to, a behavior plan, additional breaks throughout the day, snacks for a student with diabetes or hypoglycemia, modified days for a student with serious health impairments or a compromised immune system, and many others. Parents should talk with their local public school to determine if a 504 Plan is appropriate for their child. It is also important to note that a 504 Plan does not offer as many protections as an IEP.

For additional information,
please contact your local school corporation

If at any time you need information, resources or support,
contact The Arc of Indiana and ask to speak to a family advocate

317-977-2375 | 800-382-9100
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