



School Services

Parent Guide for Special Education

What is Special Education?

Special Education is a service provided by school districts for children who have any of the thirteen qualifying disabilities that impact a child's learning process.

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/special-education-basics/conditions-covered-under-idea> Special education is a program funded by the federal government under the Individuals with disabilities education act (IDEA). Students can receive these services from birth-21 years old. These services must be provided in the general education setting (least restrictive environment-LRE) to the extent possible. In order to receive special education services a child must qualify based on a formal evaluation given by your child's school.

How can special education services benefit my child?

Children in this program receive an individualized education plan (IEP). An IEP is a plan that is created with your child's unique learning needs in mind. IEPs ensure that students have access to regular education services on their level with necessary support in, as well as, outside of the classroom. Special Education also allows any necessary modifications, accommodations and related services your child may need. All services provided must be needed for your child to be successful at school academically or participate in activities with their peers.

How do I request special education services for my child?

1. Put your concerns about your child in writing and ask the school to formally test your child.
2. A team of people from your child's school will meet (teacher, administrator, counselor and special education representative) to review your request.

Timeline for Special Education Services after the Request is Made:

- 15 school days after your request is put in writing the school must deny testing or get your consent as a parent to move forward with testing
- 45 school days after getting your permission to test the school has to complete the testing
- 30 calendar days after completing the testing the school must have an annual review or dismissal meeting (ARD) to share the results of the testing and develop an individualized education plan (IEP) for your child
- Services decided on for your child will take place immediately after the IEP is signed.

Example Accommodations, Modifications and Related Services:

Accommodations

Accommodations give your child access to the curriculum on grade level and ensure that your child can participate in school activities with their same age peers. Accommodations can be in a 504 plan or in your child's individual education plan (IEP).

Types of Accommodations

Physical

- Water breaks
- Snacks
- wearing extra clothing

Behavior

- Seat near teacher Coping strategies
- Breaks
- Calm/cool down space
- Behavior contract/chart

Accessibility

- Bathroom pass
- Elevator Pass
- Extra set of books at home
- Increase independence (navigating school building)

Modifications

Modifications allow for your child to work on curriculum off grade level. If your child receives modification to their work, they will have a goal to meet and a plan to meet the goal set for them in that subject area. Student's may only need modification in 1 class but can receive them in all classes. Modifications to course work are in your child's individual education plan (IEP).

Types of Modifications

Reading/Language Arts

- Comprehension vocabulary
- Fluency
- Finding details

Math

- Fact fluency
- Address subject areas (Algebra, Geometry)
- Measurement

Behavioral

- Decreasing outburst
- Task completion

Related Services

Related services are additional supports provided by the school to help your child be successful in the classroom.

Types of Related Services

Speech and Language Services

- Letter pronunciation
- Expressive language
- Receptive language
- Communication device

Occupational/ Physical Therapy

- Handwriting
- Use of technology for written communication
- Sensory

Other Services

- Orientation and mobility for visual impaired
- Autism addendum
- Counseling

What if I disagree with the schools findings

1. Place your disagreement in writing.
2. You may check disagree on the box at your child's IEP meeting, also known as the annual, review, and dismissal meeting or ARD.

For more information on disagreement process, you may review the Procedural Safeguard booklet for parents. <https://www.spedtex.org/index.cfm/parent-resources/procedural-safeguards/>

For More information on the special education process review the following resources: SpedTex, Special Education Information Center

<https://www.spedtex.org/>

Texas Project First, Families, Information, Resources, Support and Training

<https://www.texasprojectfirst.org/>

Texas Education Agency

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education>

If your child is a patient at Children's HealthSM, you may contact the School Services Department.

School Services Department

Children's Health

Dallas Campus: 214-456-7733

Plano Campus: 469-303-4418

