



School Services

Parent Guide for Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Formally Known as Preschool Programs For Children with Disabilities (PPCD)

What is Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)?

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) is a preschool program for children with disabilities. ECSE is provided by your school district at no charge for children ages 3-5 years old. ECSE is a preschool program to build preacademic skills (numbers, colors, letters, counting and shapes) in your child. The program is individualized to meet your child's needs.

How does ECSE 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. When your child's learning needs are identified they may qualify for placement in 1 of 4 different programs.

Programs	Description
Dual Enrollment	Your child can stay at home with you or attend a private preschool and receive related service such as speech, or OT free of charge through your local public Preschool district
Head Start	A program for preschool children who meet income requirements. May place students with disabilities in the program so they can practice social skills and academics with typically developing peers.
Pre-kindergarten	An inclusive preschool program
Self-Contained	A program for students with disabilities only, located at various campuses across school districts.

How Do I request ECSE services for my child?

If your child is 3 years old or turning 3 in a school year and has a disability due to medical issues, behavior or vision concerns, you may do the following to request services:

1. If your child receives early childhood intervention services (ECI) you can work with your ECI provider to ask for services. This can be done 90 days before your child's third birthday.
2. If you suspect your child needs services when they are 3 you may contact your local school, or the school districts Child Find office.
3. You will be asked to fill out paperwork. This
4. After the paperwork is finished, they will decide if your child needs a test (evaluation). The test will help the school to decide what program your child qualifies for.
5. You will need to sign permission (consent) for your child to be tested.

When will my child receive services?

The School district has 45 school days after you sign consent to complete the test. After the test is completed the school has 30 calendars to share the findings of the test.

What if my child does not receive services and I don't agree?

The school district will send you a letter with the reason why your child will not receive services. The letter will also have information on what to do if you disagree.

My child had a medical condition; do they automatically qualify for ECSE?

A medical condition does not automatically qualify your child for services. The medical condition must cause your child to have problems learning or being apart of the school setting.

Where can parent go to get more information and resource to guide them through special education and ECSC services?

Special education processes and services are complicated. To get more information on Child Find and ECSC parents are encouraged to call their local school district office.

Children's Health patient families are also encouraged to call school services at 214-456-7733 for school support and assistance.

Where can I find more information on ECSE?

Please visit the websites below for more information. Texas Project first:

<https://www.texasprojectfirst.org/node/167>

Texas Education Agency:

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/programs-and-services/early-childhood-special-education-ecse> Navigate Life Texas:

<https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/education-schools/getting-into-ppcd>

School Services Department

Children's HealthSM

Dallas Campus: 214-456-7733

Plano Campus: 469-303-4418

