

Special Education Program

Why Should a Child be Referred?

Parents, guardians, physicians, daycare or pre-school providers, teachers, or staff members from community agencies may refer a child if they have concerns about a child's difficulty:

- Using words
- Seeing
- Understanding directions
- Being understood by others
- Learning
- Hearing

Children may also be referred if there are concerns about problems at birth, general health, medical conditions, behavior, or emotional development.

Special Education

Special Education Services are provided based on the child's disability and individual needs as determined by the IEP Team.

Department of Education

The purpose of the Tennessee Department of Education's Division of Special Education is

“to promote educational services and programs for all Tennessee's children with special education needs that will enable them to lead productive and independent lives.”

IDEA

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which was amended in 2004, ensures that all children with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE). IDEA emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet a child's unique educational needs and preparation for employment and independent living. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 was signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 3, 2004. As the nation's special education law, IDEA serves approximately 6.8 million children and youth with disabilities. In order to comply with this law, all disabled children must receive a free, appropriate public education at no cost to the child or the child's parents.

Who do we serve?

Children with disabilities ages three (3) through twenty-one (21).

How do you qualify?

Federal law, IDEA 2004, defines children with disabilities as having any of the following types of disabilities:

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| Autism | Speech or language impairment |
| Orthopedic impairment | Intellectual disability |
| Other health impairment | Traumatic brain injury |
| Serious emotional disturbance | Visual impairment (including blindness) |
| Specific learning disability | Developmental delay |
| Hearing impairment (including deafness) | Giftedness |

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Homeless Education

The federal McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” (school-age and younger) as “Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are: sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. Any student who is identified as homeless by the District Homeless Liaison may receive Special Education Services if found eligible.

Special Education Public Law 839 State of Tennessee

This law provides programs for certified students ages 3-21. Services available to public school students and selected services to private school students based on available proportionate funds include: developmental preschool screenings, hearing, speech, and psychological evaluations, and others.

School programs include CDC classes, resource classes, preschool services, and other student-related services.

Services provided will be based on a proportionate amount and will be distributed at the discretion of the local education agency.

**If we can help, please contact:
Dr. Kristy Prince, Special Education Supervisor**

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