



## Nonpublic and Home Schools

A nonpublic school is not operated by a public school district. Nonpublic schools may be religion-based, private, or a home school. Eligible students in a nonpublic school may still receive some special education services.

### Special Education in a Public School Versus a Nonpublic School

#### When you enroll your child in a PUBLIC school district:

Your child, if eligible, is entitled to receive a [free appropriate public education \(FAPE\)](#) through an [individualized education program \(IEP\)](#). A FAPE may include:

- Programs
- Services
- Accommodations
- Modifications
- Specialized instruction

#### When you enroll your child in a NONPUBLIC school:

Your child does not have a right to a FAPE and does not have an IEP in a nonpublic school. Some services (such as speech or physical therapy) may be provided through a nonpublic services plan but the services provided may be less than what your child would receive in a public school. The services are determined through a process between the public school district and the nonpublic schools, based on the required share of federal funding and the needs of the student. The services are provided by the public school district. Nonpublic schools are not bound by special education law.

#### When the public school district places your child in a nonpublic school:

The public school district may, through the IEP team, choose to provide a FAPE by placing your child in a nonpublic school. In this case, your child must have an IEP to receive a FAPE.

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## Public School District Requirements for Nonpublic Students

Public school districts must spend a certain amount of special education funds for eligible nonpublic students. The percentage of funding is based on the number of eligible students in nonpublic schools. The school districts must spend the funds on appropriate services. However, there is no requirement to provide all the services needed by a student.

## Evaluations for Students in Nonpublic Schools

Even when your child is in a nonpublic school, the public school district is responsible for your child's [evaluation for special education](#). If you request a special education evaluation, the public school district must get your consent and then begin the evaluation process. If your child is determined eligible and enrolls in a public school, he or she will receive a FAPE and an IEP. If your child stays in a nonpublic school, he or she might receive services through a nonpublic services plan.

## Nonpublic Services Plan

When a child is enrolled in a nonpublic school by the parents, the public school district's obligations are different than for children enrolled in public schools. Eligible students in public schools receive individualized special education programs and services through an IEP. Eligible students who attend nonpublic schools receive services through a nonpublic services plan.

## Home School Information

Home schooling is the responsibility of the parent or guardian and includes providing homework, tests, grades, report cards, and diplomas. Reporting to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is voluntary. When special education services are being requested from the public school district, parents must complete a Nonpublic School Membership Report. Local school boards set policy on whether nonpublic school children in their district can participate in their sports and club programs. For additional information, refer to the document titled [Home Schooling in Michigan](#), located on the MDE website.

## Resources

- [Michigan Department of Education website](#)  
Web page about nonpublic and home schools
- U.S. Department of Education guidance document: [Provisions Related to Children With Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools](#)
- U.S. Department of Education, [Michigan State Regulations, Private and Home Schools](#)



[Michigan Alliance for Families:](#)  
[Nonpublic Schools](#)