

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law created to make sure that all students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education. This education includes special education and related services tailored to their individual needs, helping them prepare for employment and independent living.

IDEA also aims to:

- Protect the rights of students with disabilities and their parents.
- Help states, local communities, educational service agencies, and federal agencies in educating students with disabilities.
- Evaluate and improve the effectiveness of efforts to educate students with disabilities.

Evaluation and Eligibility

- Written parental/guardian consent is required to evaluate the student.
- Once evaluations are completed, an eligibility meeting will be held. Based on the data presented at the eligibility meeting, the team will determine if the student is eligible for special education services and under which categories the child meets eligibility criteria set forth by the state of Georgia.

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/GAC/160-4-7-.05>

Eligibility Categories

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Deaf/Blind (D/B)
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH)
- Emotional and Behavioral Disorder (EBD)
- Intellectual Disabilities (ID)
- Orthopedic Impairment (OI)
- Other Health Impairment (OHI)
- Significant Developmental Delay (SDD)
- Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
- Speech Language Impairment (SI or SL)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Visual Impairment and Blindness (VI)

IEPs & Re-Evaluations

If a student is found eligible for special education, the team will meet within 30 calendar days to create their first Individualized Education Program (IEP). The law requires that IEPs are reviewed each year, and parents can request additional IEP meetings at any time during the year if needed.

Once the student is eligible and the initial IEP is developed and offered, we will ask for your (the parent's) consent to begin services.

If you choose not to give your consent after the initial IEP meeting, the student will not receive special education services.

To check if a student continues to be eligible for special education, re-evaluations are done every 3 years. During these re-evaluations, new information is reviewed.

This new information might lead to a student being found no longer eligible for special education, or eligible in more areas than before.