



EmpowerED
Pickerington

Resource Series for Special Education Support
Focus - Supporting Every Learner, Supporting Every Family, Every Day

Sept 2025

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Co Presenter: Malika Jefferson



Welcome to Student Services

Mission

Our mission is to provide a safe and inclusive learning environment where all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Purpose

To provide educators and families with information about the Whole Child by pursuing and completing evaluations to develop plans to help ensure that students are able to receive a free and appropriate education, regardless of their disability.



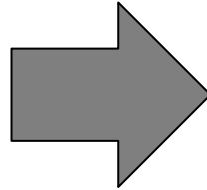
District Goals: We will...

- Cultivate **Academic Excellence** by engaging all students in relevant and rich learning experiences that prepare them for career, college, and life.
- Provide **Modern Facilities** that are physically safe and offer diverse opportunities to all students.
- Ensure **Operating Efficiency** to be financially accountable to our community, maximize resources, and ensure that we are lean and efficient.
- Be **Pillars of our Community** by relentlessly pursuing opportunities to engage with all residents.



Who We Are

Student
Services



Paraprofessionals
Intervention Specialists
Coordinators
Administrative
Assistants
Health Services
Related Services
Providers
School Psychologists

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What Do We Do?

SUPPORT

We are committed to providing high-quality, individualized educational services and support for students with disabilities

COLLABORATE

Our team of dedicated professionals works collaboratively with teachers, parents, and other specialists to ensure that each student is able to reach their full potential.

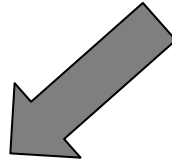
SERVE

We serve approximately 2,000 students identified as having disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004).

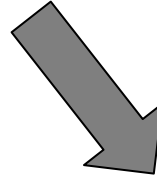


What is Special Education?

Specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.



A service, not a place

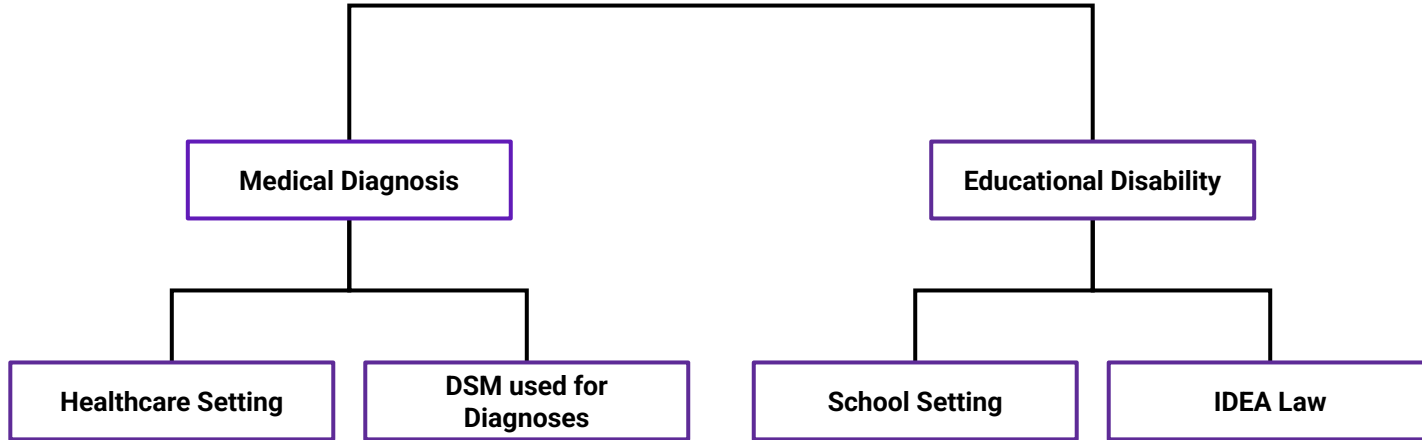


No cost to parents.

Who is Eligible?

- *Students between the ages of 3-22*
- *Students who meet the definition of a student with a disability*
 - *Disability must affect academic performance and require specially designed instruction*

Diagnosis DOES NOT always= Disability



What is the process?



REFERRAL

- *An official request for special education services*
- *May come from parent or staff*
- *Once a referral is made, the district has 30 days to respond to the request*



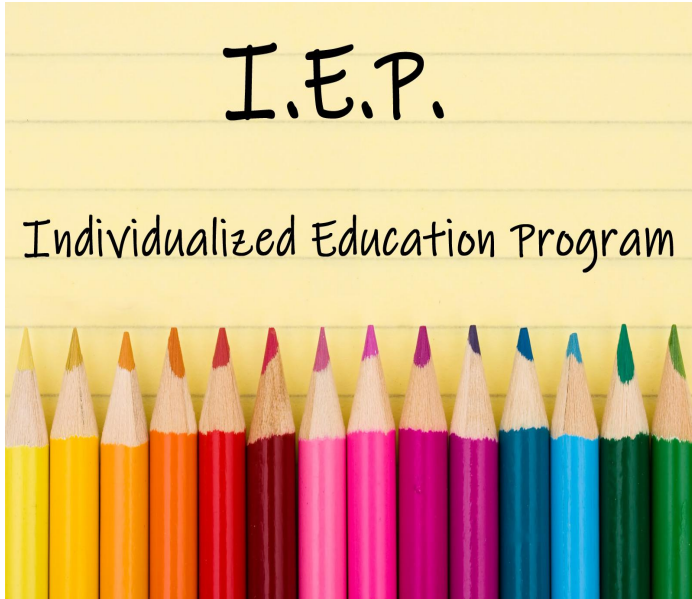
EVALUATION and ELIGIBILITY

- ***Meeting will be set to discuss an evaluation if the district suspects a disability***



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IEP



- ***IF they qualify, an IEP is developed by the team***
- ***Goals and accommodations are created based on the results of the ETR***
- ***Parent input is an integral part of the IEP***

Placement

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)



Instruction

General Instruction

- Same for all students
- Progress measured by grade level standards

IEP Instruction

- Tailored to individual student need
- Progress measured by IEP goals

IEP students get both general instruction and IEP instruction

Annual Review

IEP's (Individualized Education Program) must be reviewed once a year.

- **Progress:** How your child did on last year's goals.
- **Needs:** What supports are helping, and what needs to change.
- **New Goals:** What your child should work on for the next year.
- **Services:** If the amount of help (specially designed instruction, therapies, accommodations) is still the right fit.



Parent Prep for Meetings



- *Gather information*
- *Draft your vision*
- *You know your child best*
- *You are an = partner*

Ways to Develop Positive Partnerships

- **Assume Positive Intent:** Approach the relationship with the understanding that educators share the goal of the child's success
- **Prepare Thoroughly for Meetings:** Prior to formal meetings like an IEP, gather all relevant information or documents, prepare a clear list of goals/concerns and present those in writing to the other team members before the meeting.
- **Communicate Consistently:** Establish a communication plan with the teacher and service providers.
- **Share Strengths and Strategies:** Go beyond simply reporting problems. Actively share your observations about your child's strengths and any successful strategies or routines that have worked at home. This provides valuable insights that can inform the educational plan and strengthens your role as a partner.



Resources

- [Pickerington Student Services webpage](#)
- [Special Education Timelines: A Reference Guide for Families](#)
- [Families of Students with Disabilities Resources](#)



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