







Special Education Process

What is Special Education? Under the [Individuals with Disabilities Act \(2004\)](#), students birth to 21 years old, who qualify and demonstrate a need, are provided with free services and supports, to help them be successful in the classroom and community.

Your Role in the Process: You are your child's first and most important teacher and a valued member of the team. Your goals for your child and your insights will be used in the process.

	<h2 style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;">Referral</h2> <p>For children ages birth to 5 years, anyone can refer a child for an evaluation; including parent, family member, friend or a professional through Help Me Grow. During K-12, before educators refer a child for evaluation, interventions may be implemented to see if your child's school performance can improve in the general education classroom.</p>
	<h2 style="background-color: #4db6ac; color: white; padding: 5px;">Initial Evaluation</h2> <p>If challenges continue after interventions, with your permission an assessment will be completed. You and the team of school professionals will identify and evaluate potential areas of concern. Testing can include: formal tests, informal measures, observations, medical/educational history, parent report, etc. Evaluations will be completed in 30 school days from the date of your signed consent.</p>
	<h2 style="background-color: #ffc107; color: white; padding: 5px;">Eligibility</h2> <p>You will meet with the team to review the evaluation report and determine if your child meets criteria for special education services as outlined by state and federal law. Your child may meet criteria in one or more 13 disability areas.</p>
	<h2 style="background-color: #4caf50; color: white; padding: 5px;">What If My Child Is Not Eligible?</h2> <p>If your child has not met special education eligibility criteria, educators will make recommendations using the evaluation information to assist your child in the general education classroom. General education support services may be recommended such as tutoring, after school programs, supplemental supports, etc. If you disagree with the results of a special education evaluation, you can refer to the Parent Rights and Procedural Safeguards for options available.</p>

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)



If your child qualifies and you are in agreement, an [IEP](#) will be created. An IEP is a plan that details the services and assistance your child will be given at school. This plan will be developed with input from you, classroom teacher/s, administration, special education staff. Some components in the IEP include: present levels (data and information about how your child is doing academically), goals, services, locations of services and accommodations/modifications that will help them participate in the general education classroom. **Services will not begin without your consent.**

Placement



At the IEP meeting we will collaborate to determine how and where your child will receive their services and support. Your child will receive services in the general education classroom to the maximum extent possible, while ensuring appropriate educational opportunities- this is called the least [restrictive environment](#).

Progress Monitoring



Information about your child's progress on their goals will be provided to you as often as progress in general education classes are reported.

Annual Review and Re-Evaluation



Your child's education plan will be reviewed and adjusted each year at the annual IEP meeting. Your child will be re-evaluated every three years or sooner if new information is needed to help them be successful in school.

The goal of Special Education at [Meeker & Wright Special Education Cooperative](#) (MAWSECO) is to provide quality special education leadership, services, and support that always meets or exceeds the expectations of those we serve. MAWSECO serves 7 member districts. If you have further questions about the Special Education Process, please contact your district's Special Education Leader:

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