



Maple Lake Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Welcome!

The Maple Lake School District (ISD #881) Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program provides early intervention service to children from birth through kindergarten who have identified special education needs, based upon state eligibility criteria. Children with identified special education needs ages birth-2 years receive early intervention service through MAWSECO, a special education cooperative in which Maple Lake participates. From the ages of 3 to kindergarten, special education service is primarily provided through programs located within Maple Lake Elementary. Contact information for specific programs can be found below.

What is Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)?

The Maple Lake School District provides early intervention to children ages birth to kindergarten who show a delay in one or more developmental areas, including:

- speech and language
- physical development (including motor skills, hearing, or vision)
- social, emotional, and behavioral skills
- cognitive development
- adaptive skills

The Early Childhood Special Education program also provides service to children ages birth to kindergarten who meet Minnesota eligibility criteria for a categorical disability (such as Autism Spectrum Disorders, Physical Impairment, etc.), or those children who have a diagnosed physical or mental condition/disorder with a high probability of resulting in developmental delay (for children under the age of 3).

After a formal evaluation to identify eligibility and specific needs, the ECSE team will work with the child and family to develop a plan for the child to meet their highest potential. From birth-2, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed, and service will primarily be delivered in the home or child care center. For children ages 3-kindergarten, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be developed, and services will primarily be delivered in the ECSE program, located at Maple Lake Elementary School.

The Early Childhood Special Education process includes consistent parental collaboration and communication. Parents/guardians are essential members of the ECSE team!

Parents can request an educational evaluation if they have concerns about their child's development. Evaluations are provided by the school district, with no direct cost to the family. Referral is the first step of the Early Childhood Special Education process. When a referral is made, an ECSE teacher will discuss the concerns with you. If concerns persist, an evaluation will be developed to determine your child's eligibility and specific needs.

If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact:

- Birth-2 years: Contact Joanna Cochran by phone or text at 763-274-9543 or by email at jcochran@mawseco.k12.mn.us
- 3-6 years: Contact Sue Hadler by phone at 320-963-7462 or by email at shadler@mawseco.k12.mn.us
- Early Childhood Screening is a Minnesota requirement of all children before they reach kindergarten. Early Childhood Screening is conducted as an early look at a child's development. Screening is provided at no cost to the family. Children identified through the screening may be referred to ECSE for further evaluation.