

## **Preschool Special Education Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **What is IDEA?**

IDEA is an acronym for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. IDEA law requires that students with disabilities are provided with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) that is designed to meet the individual needs of the student.

### **What is section 619 of IDEA?**

Section 619 of IDEA applies to children ages 3 through 5 who have disabilities. Local school districts are required by IDEA to provide preschool special education services to children in this age group.

### **Who do I contact to get my child evaluated to determine eligibility for preschool special education services?**

Beginning at age 3 children who may have a disability can be evaluated to determine eligibility for special education services by the school district where the child resides. Parents can google the contact information for the special education department of the school district that serves their neighborhood. In most cases it would be the school district for the county that you live in, ex. DeKalb County School District. The parents can contact the school district and request a comprehensive evaluation for their child to determine eligibility for special education services. Parents will be given a consent to evaluate form that gives the district consent to complete the evaluation. After the evaluation is completed the district will schedule a meeting with parents to review the evaluation results and determine if the child is eligible for services. If he/she is found eligible, the committee (including parents) will determine the best services to meet the child's needs and develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for the school to use.

### **How early can my child be evaluated to determine eligibility for preschool special education services?**

The evaluation process can begin at 2 ½ year old.

### **I think my child has special needs and he/she hasn't turned 2 ½ yet. Who should I contact to seek services for my child in Georgia?**

Georgia's early intervention program is [Babies Can't Wait](#) (BCW). This program is administered by the [Georgia Department of Public Health](#)

### **I just moved to Georgia from another state. My child has an IEP. How do I resume services for my child?**

Beginning at age 3 children with disabilities can receive special education services in the school district where the child resides. Parents can google the contact information for the special education department of the school district that serves their neighborhood. The special

education department personnel will provide parents with the information needed to enroll the students so that special education services may resume.

**If I have concerns regarding my child's services and/or IEP, who should I contact before I contact the state department of education?**

Parents may contact the state department of education at any time. However, it is recommended that parents contact the personnel at the local school district before contacting the state department of education. Your first point of contact regarding questions or concerns would be the child's special education teacher or case worker. Contact the teacher and/or caseworker to request an IEP meeting to document your concerns. If the concerns are not resolved, it is appropriate to contact the school principal or center director. If additional support is needed, contact the special education department for the school district that serves students in your community. Following these steps of contact allows the school district the opportunity to address any questions or concerns prior to parents making contact with the state department of education.

- For general questions and information, call 404-656-3963
- Special Education questions and support, call 404-657-9968
- To email, [SPEDHelpDesk@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:SPEDHelpDesk@doe.k12.ga.us)