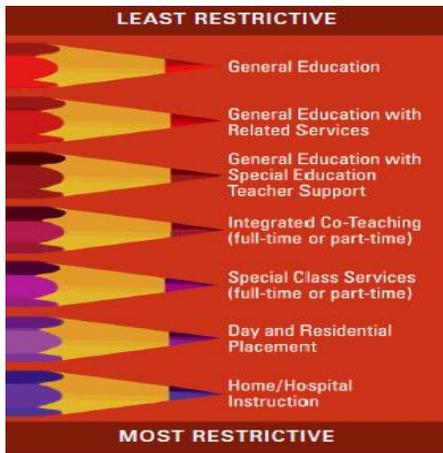


### What special education services may be recommended?

There is a range of services available to support your child in his or her least restrictive environment. These include services in the general education classroom as well as more intensive services provided in district schools, **specialized programs**, and **District 75**. The chart below shows some of the services available.



### What are related services?

**Related services**, such as counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech/language therapy, may also be recommended to support and advance your child's achievement. These services are provided individually or in a group, in the least restrictive environment, which may be in the classroom or in a separate location within the school. The related services are coordinated with your child's teachers to best support instruction in the classroom.

### When will my child's IEP be reviewed?

After your child has been recommended for special education services, an IEP meeting is held annually to review your child's progress. This is called an **Annual Review**. A reevaluation must also be completed once every three years, unless you and the school agree in writing that it is not necessary. This is called a **Three-Year Reevaluation**. Parents and school staff may also request a reevaluation if services need to be reconsidered before the three years have passed.

### Need more information or support?

Visit the special education website for the full Family Guide and other important documents:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation>

Contact your child's teacher or other school staff member if your child attends a district school.

Contact the Committee on Special Education in your school district if your child attends a charter or non-public school:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/Help/Contacts>

Contact the Special Education Hotline:  
(718) 935-2007 or 311

E-mail the Special Education Office:  
[SpecialEducation@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:SpecialEducation@schools.nyc.gov)



Bill de Blasio  
Mayor

Carmen Fariña  
Chancellor

## Special Education: Questions and Answers for Families

Every child with a **disability** has the right to a **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** alongside their non-disabled peers to the greatest extent possible.

If your child has a disability, the NYC Department of Education (NYCDOE) will provide special education services specially designed to meet his or her individual needs, at no cost to you.

In this pamphlet you will find information about the **special education process**, the **Individualized Education Program (IEP)**, and **school-age special education services**.

### *I believe my child needs more support. What should I do?*

First, talk to your child's teacher to find out if there are supports available within the general education setting, such as reading or math remediation programs and counseling. If these supports do not meet your child's needs, make an **initial referral** for a special education evaluation by submitting a written request to a professional staff member in your child's school (e.g., teacher or school psychologist). If your child does not attend a NYCDOE district school, contact the **Committee on Special Education (CSE)** office in your school district.

### *What happens after the initial referral?*

Within 10 school days you will receive a **notice of referral**, which explains your rights, provides contact information for a person to call with questions, and requests that you meet with a social worker for a **social history interview**. At this interview you will share information about your child's development and sign the **consent for initial evaluation** form. Once your consent is received, the school IEP Team or district CSE has 60 calendar days to evaluate your child and hold an IEP meeting.

### *What will the evaluation include?*

Your child will be assessed in all areas related to the suspected disability, including, where appropriate, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, vocational skills, language skills and motor abilities.

### *How can I prepare for the IEP meeting?*

Once the evaluations are complete, you will receive copies and an invitation to the IEP meeting at least five days in advance. You may request that information be translated into your preferred language and that an interpreter attend the meeting. You may also request that a parent member, which is a trained parent of a student with a disability living in or near your school district, attend to assist you. You are an important member of the IEP Team, so come prepared with questions!

### *What happens at the IEP meeting?*

The IEP meeting for an initial evaluation includes you, the special education teacher, general education teacher, district representative, school psychologist, school social worker, and, when appropriate, the student. At the meeting, the IEP Team reviews information from a variety of sources to determine if your child meets the criteria for one or more of the 13 disability classifications and demonstrates a need for special education services. If your child meets these eligibility criteria, then an **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** will be developed.

### *What are the 13 disability classifications?*

Autism, Deafness, Deaf-Blindness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Learning Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visual Impairment.

### *What does the IEP include?*

The IEP is a written document that includes information about your child's current skills and abilities, academic goals, and the special education services that will be provided in his or her least restrictive environment. The "**least restrictive environment**" (LRE) means that your child will be educated alongside his or her non-disabled peers to the maximum extent possible.

### *What happens after the IEP meeting?*

After the meeting, you will receive a copy of the IEP and a **Prior Written Notice** in your preferred language informing you of the special education services your child will receive if found to have a disability. When your child is to receive special education services for the first time, you must give your consent by signing the consent form, so special education services can be arranged for your child. A letter called the **Authorization to Attend** will then be sent to you with the date the services will begin. This must be completed within 60 school days from the date you provided consent to evaluate your child.