

Provisions for Identification and Evaluation of Children with Disabilities

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that ensures children and youth with disabilities a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). The Springfield Local Schools District provides a continuum of special education programs and services for preschool and school-age students with disabilities. We are committed to providing a Free and Appropriate Education to our students identified with a disability.

A child with a disability is a child having an Intellectual Disability, Hearing Impairment (including Deafness), Visual Impairment (including Blindness), a Speech or Language Impairment, an Emotional Disturbance, and Orthopedic Impairment, Autism, Traumatic Brain Injury, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Deaf-Blindness, or Multiple Disabilities. A process, utilizing a team approach is utilized to identify and categorize these students.

Child Find: "A Search for All Children with Disabilities" Child find is the process of identifying, locating and evaluating all children from age three to twenty-one who may have a disability and be in need of special education and related services, regardless of severity of the disability. The district seeks to identify, through Child Find, all children in the Springfield Local School District who attend a public or non-public school in the district or who are homeless or wards of the state who may be in need of special education and related services.

If you are aware of a child who may have special needs, or have any questions, comments, or concerns in regards to your child, please notify Laura McBride, Coordinator of Special Education at (330) 542-2929, extension 203 or at lmcbride@springfieldlocal.us.

SECTION 504:

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (hereinafter "Section 504"), is Congress' directive to schools receiving Federal funding to eliminate discrimination based on disability from all aspects of their school operations. It states, "No other qualified individual with a disability shall solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded in the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program receiving Federal financial assistance." Since the school district is a recipient to Federal dollars, its administrators and staff are required to provide eligible disabled students with equal access (both physical and academic) to services, programs, and activities offered by its schools. Section 504 is a civil rights statute, not a special education statute. Students with a diagnosed medical condition may be eligible for a Section 504 Plan.

Links and Resources for Parents and Families:

IDEAs that Work: Preparing Children and Youth with Disabilities for Success: <http://ccrs.osepideasthatwork.org/>

Procedural Safeguards: <https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Special-Education/Students-with-Disabilities/Physical-or-Mentally-Handicap/Whose-IDEA-Is-This-A-Parent-s-Guide-to-the-Individ/Whose-IDEA.pdf.aspx>

State Support Team (Families Homepage): <http://www.sstr5.org/Families/tabid/568/Default.aspx>

State Support Team (Resources Gallery):

<http://www.sstr5.org/Families/FamilyResourceGallery/tabid/825/Default.aspx>

Transition Links: Preparing your Child with a Disability for Life after School

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/age-of-majority-parentguide/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcNSpKX8kVs>

A Parent's Guide to Section 504: <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/section-504-2/>