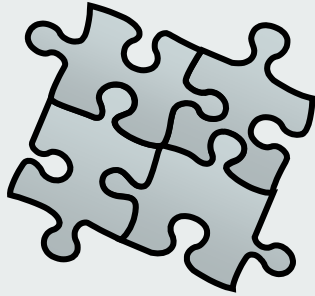


YOUR SCHOOL CAN HELP PUT ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER



The Los Angeles Unified School District is committed to serving the educational needs of each of its students. Children learn in a variety of ways and most of our students can learn effectively in a traditional setting. However, sometimes children need additional help. Children with disabilities may be eligible to receive special education services. These services are designed to meet their educational needs and will be provided at no additional cost to their families. In some circumstances special education services can begin at birth and continue until age twenty-two.

How do I find out more about my child's rights and my rights as a parent?

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) a child with disabilities may have the right to a public education designed to meet their unique needs. To find out more about your child's rights, ask for a copy of the District's publication, A Parent's Guide to Special Education Services, at your local school or office. This booklet provides detailed information about your protections under the law.

Where do I call for more information?

Call your local public school or the following toll free number if you require additional assistance:

1-800-933-8133



ARE YOU PUZZLED BY YOUR CHILD'S SPECIAL NEEDS?



Special Education Services Information For Parents



Published by the
Los Angeles Unified School District

How do I know if my child needs special education services?

Your child may have difficulties that interfere with his/her ability to go to school or to learn. These difficulties may be in one of these general areas:

❖ Speech and language development

Some children may have a very difficult time learning to speak clearly and/or understanding what is said to them.

❖ Vision problems

Some children may have great difficulty seeing objects and/or printed words even though they may already be wearing glasses.

❖ Hearing problems

Some children may have difficulty hearing and/or distinguishing sounds and voices, even with hearing aids.

❖ Physical development

Some children may have trouble learning to walk, move or work with small objects.

❖ Academic development

Some children may have great difficulty learning to read, write or do arithmetic. Young children may trouble with pre-school skills such as learning shapes and colors.

❖ Thinking/Memory skills

Some children may have more difficulty than others in remembering what they see or hear. As a result, it may be a challenge for them to solve problems in daily living or schoolwork.

❖ Attention/Perception skills

Some children may have difficulty processing or understanding information. As a result, it may be hard for them to pay attention or follow directions.

❖ Social/Emotional development

Some children may have trouble managing their feelings and/or behavior. They may find it very difficult to get along with others. It may be hard for them to make friends or to cope with changes in their lives.

❖ Living skills

Some children may be challenged by day-to-day activities such as dressing, feeding themselves or taking care of their basic health and grooming needs.

❖ Other health conditions

Some children have serious or chronic medical conditions that may interfere with school attendance or learning.

What should I do if I believe my child needs special education?

Call your local public school for assistance. Should your child need assessment for special education services you will be asked to give permission for assessment in writing.

What is involved in an assessment for special education services?

An assessment involves gathering information about your child to determine whether your child has a disability. An assessment may include individual testing, observations, interviews and reviews of school records, reports or work samples.

How long will the assessment take?

When school is in session, the District must respond in writing to your request for an assessment within 15 days. You will be asked to sign an Assessment Plan. Once the District has received your signed Assessment Plan the assessment must be completed and the results shared with you at an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting within 60 days.

What can I expect at an IEP meeting?

You will be invited to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting which will be held to share the results of your child's assessment and determine if your child has special needs which make him or her eligible for special education services. If your child is eligible, the IEP will describe the services and programs they may need. If the District determines that your child is not eligible you have the right to appeal the decision.