

## Early Childhood Family Leadership Series

# Session 1: Navigating Birth-5 Special Education



# Welcome

## **Session 1: Navigating Birth-5 Special Education**

- What is IDEA and how does it help my child?
- How do I start my child in special education?
- How do I choose a school or program?
- What if I run into problems?
- Does anyone else have these issues?

# IDEA

## Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- Equal Access
- Standardization
- Rights Protection
- Inclusion
- Individualization
- Accountability

### 0-2 Early Intervention (IDEA: Part C)

Reassuring settings. Familiar toys and objects. Based around routines and traditions.

Free services to help families support the growth and learning needs of their children.

### 3-4 Preschool (IDEA: Part B, 619)

School dist, community preschool, Head Start or childcare with non-disabled peers as possible.

Part, half or full day preschool each week, based upon the services identified in each child's plan.

### 5-21 Kindergarten + (IDEA: Part B)

Your local school district with non-disabled peers to the maximum extent possible.

Same hours as non-disabled peers, individualized services and supports.

# IEP/IFSP Process

## Individualized Education Program

1. **Referral:** Make contact and share concerns/request for evaluation.
1. **Evaluation:** Must be completed within 60 days from receipt of consent.
1. **Eligibility:** Eligibility criteria considered and decision made.
1. **Plan Development:** Completed within 90 days (Part B) from consent, or 45 days (Part C) from referral.
1. **Placement and Services:** Start services right away (28 days in Part C).
1. **Monitoring and Review:** Monitor progress and periodically review.

## 0-2 Early Intervention (IDEA: Part C)

**Call: 833-733-3734**

[Early Intervention Colorado website](#) (online referral)

- Materials for families
- Videos
- Free developmental milestone materials

## 3-4 Preschool (IDEA: Part B, 619)

**Contact: Child Find** in your school district

- [School district finder](#)
- [Child Find directory](#)

**Also Apply: [Universal Preschool](#)**

Q's: Mary Morin: 720-766-6507

## 5-21 Kindergarten & up (IDEA: Part B)

**Email: Discuss with your child's teacher, Principal, or the Special Education Director**

- [School district finder](#)
- [Special Education Director List](#)

Q's: CDE's Office of Special Education: 720-926-1453



## Public School Placements:

- **Traditional School**
  - Regular classroom
  - Special education classroom
- **Center-Based Program**
- **Specialized School**
- **Online Schools**
- **Charter School**

## Private schools

## Homeschools

## Placement and Location

- Understand your child's needs
- Visit schools, meet staff
- Consider transportation and logistics
- Ask in parent groups
  - [P2P](#)
  - Facebook
- Research your options
  - [Colorado Shines](#) (0-5)
  - School and district websites
  - [SchoolView](#) (5-21)

Remember: teachers change, administrators change and what works for one child might not work for another.



# Procedural Safeguards

What if

- The school is taking a very long time to make a plan for your child?
- You disagree with the school's evaluation of your child's needs or the results of that evaluation?
- The school is not providing the services or accommodations listed in the IEP?



## A Guide to Parent Rights in Special Education

Special Education Procedural Safeguards Notice



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

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# Is anyone else running into these issues?

- Is this just how it works?
- What percentage of kids with disabilities making progress in Colorado?
- Do other families feel like special education and/or Early Intervention has helped them?



**Timely Provision of Services (Indicator 1)**

**Services in Natural Environments (Indicator 2)**

**Early Childhood Outcomes (Indicator 3)**

**Family Outcomes (Indicator 4)**

**Timely IFSPs (Indicators 5, 6 and 7)**

**Early Childhood Transition (Indicator 8)**

**0-2 Early  
Intervention  
(IDEA: Part C)**

**3-5 Preschool  
(IDEA: Part B,  
619)**

**5-21 Kinder +  
(IDEA: Part B)**



# How can I find out about my school district?

Part C, ages birth-2, by Community Centered Board (CCB):

Local EI Program Performance Profiles

[https://dcfs.my.salesforce-sites.com/eicolorado/EI\\_Reports?p=reports&s=Data-and-Performance-Reports&lang=en](https://dcfs.my.salesforce-sites.com/eicolorado/EI_Reports?p=reports&s=Data-and-Performance-Reports&lang=en)

Part B, ages 3-21, by district:

Administrative Unit State Performance Plan Indicator Profiles

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/aupformanceprofiles>

# Stay tuned for Session 2.....

## Being a Family Leader

- What does it mean to be a Family Leader?
- Why do we need Family Leaders?
- Where can families be involved?
- How can I participate?
- Anything else I should know?



# Additional Links

PEAK Parent Center: <https://www.peakparent.org/>

Six principles of IDEA: <https://www.askresource.org/resources/six-principles-of-idea>

Procedural Safeguards: [https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/iep\\_forms#safeguards](https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/iep_forms#safeguards)

\*Part C Indicator list (see addition pdf)

\*Part B Indicator list (see additional pdf)

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