

Frequently Asked Questions- Special Education

1. If my child has been diagnosed with a disability or disorder, what are my next steps for school?

Talk with your child's teacher and see what is happening in the classroom. If you believe your child may need special education services, you can request a special education assessment in writing and turn it into your child's school. The school psychologist will contact you. The school team has 25 calendar days to collect data and determine if a special education assessment is warranted. The school will have you sign consent before any assessments are administered. A child does not need a diagnosis to receive services.

2. If I think my child needs additional support but we don't have a diagnosis, what should we do?

The steps are the same as number one.

3. What types of support can the school provide for my child?

Our district provides a number of services and supports for students. Speech & communication, fine & gross motor, social emotional, academics and more. You can learn more about our services [here](#).

4. Are students pulled out for services or do they stay in their classrooms?

Services are tailored to a child's specific needs. Some needs are better met outside of the classroom while others can be provided inside the classroom.

5. How do I know if my child may qualify for special services?

The following need to be true to qualify for special education services.

The student must have a disability or disabilities.

The student's disability/disabilities adversely affect educational performance.

The student's unique needs cannot be addressed through education in general education classes alone – with or without individual accommodations and requires specially designed instruction (SDI).

6. What is the difference between an IEP and 504?

The biggest difference between a 504 plan and special education is a student's need for specially designed instruction. A student does not need specially designed instruction for a 504 plan but does to qualify for special education services.

7. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

You can contact your child's school and ask for the school psychologist or you can also contact the special education department at 509-526-6724 or the special education hotline at 509-526-6770. This hotline is open Monday – Friday from 8:00am to 7:00pm and monitored on the weekends.