

Receiving Special Education Services in Connecticut

What happens when a disability is suspected

Child Find

Local school districts are required to locate and identify students who may need special education services.

Referral

Once it is suspected that a child might have a disability, a referral to special education is completed.

- A referral can be submitted by parents, school staff members or others.
 - Referral forms are completed by the school team when a disability is suspected, but parents can write a letter noting their concerns.

Planning and Placement Team (PPT)

Once a referral has been received, a PPT meeting is scheduled.

- The purpose of this meeting is to review the referral and determine if an evaluation is needed.

Evaluation

If the PPT decides more information is needed, the district conducts an initial evaluation in all areas of concern to determine if the child has an educational disability and what his/her educational needs are.

- Parent consent is required in order for the district to conduct proposed evaluations.

Eligibility Meeting

Another PPT is convened to review the results of the evaluations.

- The PPT uses the evaluation results to determine if the student is eligible for special education and related services.

Eligibility

In order for a child to be eligible for special education:

- The evaluation results show a child's difficulties meet the criteria of one or more disability categories; and
- Due to this disability, the child's ability to receive an education is adversely impacted; and
- Because of the disability and the adverse impact, the child needs specially designed instruction (special education and, when necessary, related services)

In order to be eligible for special education, all three requirements must be met.

Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)

If the child is found eligible for special education, the team develops an educational plan for the student including goals and objectives in each area where the child will receive services.

- In Connecticut, the IEP must be implemented within 45 school days of the initial referral.