

Special Education Overview

Contact Information:

AACPS Infants and Toddlers
c/o Point Pleasant Elementary
1450 Furnace Avenue
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21066
410-222-6911

Contact Information:

AACPS Child Find Teams
200 Scott Avenue
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060
410-766-6662

Children Birth to Age 3

AACPS Infants and Toddlers Program is a countywide system of coordinated, interagency and multidisciplinary early intervention services. Parents, medical personnel, or other concerned individuals may make a referral. Evaluations are completed to determine if the child is eligible for early intervention services.

Children Ages 3-5

The Preschool Child Find Team is an interdisciplinary team that provides identification services to children from three to five years of age who may have a disability.

Parents, medical personnel, or other concerned individuals may make a referral. If the IEP team suspects that the child has a disability after reviewing all screening information, assessments in all areas related to the suspected disability are recommended.

Upon parental approval, the recommended assessments are conducted by the school-based staff and reviewed by the IEP team at an IEP team meeting. For those children eligible for services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Extended Individual Family Service Plan (Extended IFSP) is developed. The IEP team reviews the IEP/Extended IFSP, identifies services needed to implement the IEP/Extended IFSP, and considers options for the provision of services in the least restrictive environment.

School-Age Students (Grades K-12)

A student who is suspected of having a disability is referred to the IEP team. The IEP team meets to review the referral and existing data, information from the parent, previously implemented instructional interventions and strategies, current classroom-based assessments/curriculum measures and observations. Based on this information, the IEP team shall determine the need for assessment.

If assessments are recommended, the school staff obtains permission and the recommended assessments are conducted by the school-based staff and reviewed by the IEP team at an IEP team meeting. For those children eligible for services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed. The IEP team reviews the IEP, identifies services needed to implement the IEP, and considers options for the provision of services in the least restrictive environment.

Note: If a parent has an educational concern and/or believes their child may have a disability, please contact your school's administrator.

Private/Parochial: If there is a concern or belief that a school-age child who attends a private or religiously affiliated school in Anne Arundel County may have a disability, contact the Compliance Office Technician at 410 222- 5479.

Service Continuum: The Anne Arundel County School System provides a continuum of services ranging from consultation and general education programming to specialty classes, regional programs and separate public and private (approved nonpublic) school placements. Each elementary, middle, and high school in Anne Arundel County provides special education and related services for students who are identified as eligible for services.

Special Education

Overview/ Process : Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Eligibility:

Children with disabilities from birth to age 21 may be eligible for special education. Federal law defines “children with disabilities” as having any of the following types of disabilities.

- Autism
- Deaf-blindness
- Deafness
- Developmental Delay
- Emotional Disability
- Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment (including blindness)

Definition:

Special Education means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. Special Education can include:

- Instruction
- Instruction in physical education
- Vocational Education
- Speech/Language Services

Additionally, once Special Education is determined, related services may also be implemented based on student profile/need (eligibility) e.g.

- Speech/Language Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Counseling

NOTE: Anne Arundel County Public Schools assures full educational opportunities by providing free and appropriate educational programs and related services for students with disabilities. “At no cost” means that all specially designed instruction is provided without charge, but does not preclude incidental fees which are normally charged to non-disabled students or their parents as part of the regular education program.