



Edwards County CUSD #1
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Special Education Parent Information

Services for school-aged children with developmental disabilities (3 through 21 years of age) are provided free of charge through the public school system. Among the services covered under IDEA (the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) are special education; related services such as physical, occupational, and speech therapy; and supplementary aids and services, such as adaptive equipment or special communication systems.

Before IDEA services start, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed for children 3 through 21 years of age who qualify for special education services from school districts.

Edwards County Schools provides Special Education and Related Services in accordance with IDEA. Our district has a process in place to determine if a student is eligible for special education services. This process involves a comprehensive evaluation at no cost to the parent. Other aspects of development and medical diagnoses (if educationally impacting) are also considered.

A student's Individual Education Plan must be updated annually which includes participation of the classroom teacher, special education teacher, parent, student, and other service providers. Re-Evaluations for eligibility for services are completed every three years. Schools use many strategies to help students receiving special education services succeed in general education settings. These strategies include:

- **Assistive technology** such as providing a laptop to help a student with a writing disability take notes in class
- **Accommodations** such as seating the student near the teacher (and far from distractions) or allowing him to give oral reports instead of writing essays
- **Modifications** such as reducing the amount of homework a student is assigned
- **Paraprofessionals** who serve as teachers' aides helping students with various tasks such as taking notes and highlighting important information

Other types of classrooms or placements are considered if your child will not be able to experience success in the general education classroom.