



OK Early Ed

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

SPECIAL EDUCATION

**PRESCHOOL
TRANSITION FOR
SCHOOLS**

WHAT ARE PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES?

Preschool special education services are those provided by local education agencies (LEAs) to students ages three through five. These services are referred to in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) in Section 619.

School districts (LEAs) are responsible for providing services to children (ages 3 through 21) with special needs who have been determined eligible under the IDEA.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Preschool transition involves students transitioning from early intervention programs such as SoonerStart as well as students transitioning from other settings such as child care centers, home based care, and so on.

If a preschool student who is referred from SoonerStart, is potentially eligible for Part B services (school age ranging from 3 through 21), SoonerStart will send a notification to the LEA (local education agency) and hold a transition planning conference (TPC) at least 90 days before the child's third birthday. If a child is transitioning from SoonerStart and qualifies for special education services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is to be developed and implemented for the child by his/her third birthday.

If a preschool student is self-referred (for families that have not received SoonerStart services), the child will be considered under Child Find and the process will proceed with the eligibility determination process.

WHAT IS CHILD FIND?

The LEA is responsible for establishing and implementing an ongoing Child Find system to locate, identify, and evaluate students suspected of having a disability, birth through 21 years, who may need special education, regardless of the severity of the disability. The Child Find system includes all students within the LEA's geographic boundaries.

The Three Components of the Child Find system:

- **Locating** students who may have disabilities involves coordinating with other agencies and promoting public awareness (e.g. publishing an announcement on a website or providing brochures at school events).
- **Identifying** students who may have disabilities includes screening or coordinated early intervening services (CEIS). CEIS are general education interventions, accommodations, and strategies (e.g. providing after-school tutoring for non-disabled students who score below "basic" on statewide assessments).
- **Evaluating** students who may have disabilities is achieved through a comprehensive evaluation. This comprehensive evaluation is completed to determine eligibility for special education services under the IDEA.

Eligibility requirements for LEA services are different than those for SoonerStart.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHILD QUALIFIES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES?

If a child is eligible for special education services, a team will meet to develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for the child. The IEP team, which must include parents/guardians, will develop measurable annual goals for the child to address his/her identified needs and enable the child to progress in age-appropriate educational activities.

The IEP team will determine the services that are needed, the location in which the student will receive services, and the duration of services.

RESOURCES

- Visit the Oklahoma State Department of Education Office of Special Education (OSDE-SES) webpage at <https://sde.ok.gov/special-education> for more information on school age (Part B) and SoonerStart (Part C) services as well as other special education topics
- [Oklahoma Special Education Handbook](#)
- [Special Education Policies](#)
- [Special Education Process Guide](#)
- Child Development Resources
 - [Early Childhood Resources](#)
 - [Social-Emotional Development Guide](#)
 - [CDC Development Milestone Resource](#)

WHAT SERVICES AND RESOURCES MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN AGES THREE TO FIVE?

- Developmentally Delayed Preschool Classroom
- Speech-Language Pathology Services
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Physical Therapy Services
- Public Preschool
- Head Start
- Private Preschool
- Child Care Center
- Health Department Play Groups
- Native American Services
- Community Recreation Groups
- Others as determined by the IEP team

