



Questions and Answers

Services for Children with Disabilities Placed by Their Parents in Private Schools
Boise School District
Special Education Office
8169 W. Victory Rd.
Boise, Id 83709

Boise School District is responsible for Child Find activities which include locating, identifying and evaluating all students with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private schools within the Boise School District boundary.

The Boise School District's Special Education Department manages referrals for private school students ages 3 through 21. To begin the referral process, personnel from the private school contact the Special Education Department at 854-4170.

1. What is Child Find?

Child Find refers to the active and continuing efforts of the school district to identify, locate, and evaluate any child, 3 through 21 years inclusive, who resides within the jurisdiction of the Boise School District and is thought to be a child with a disability. This includes resident children who do not attend public school, but attend private schools within the Boise School District. It also includes non-resident children whose parents place them in private schools in the Boise School District.

2. What is Special Education in the public school setting?

Specially designed instruction or speech/language therapy at no cost to the parent to meet the unique needs of a student with a disability including instruction in the classroom, the home, hospitals, institutions, and other settings; instruction in physical education; speech therapy and language therapy; transition services; travel training; assistive technology services; and vocational education.

3. How can private schools and parents obtain information regarding the special education and related services that may be available for their students with disabilities?

General information for parents who place their children with disabilities in private schools is available through the principal at the private school where their child attends.

4. What can parents of private school students do when they believe a student needs special education assistance?

They can contact the principal at the private school who will contact the Boise School District to begin the referral process.

5. Where do private students receive evaluations and services?

All evaluations and any provision of special education services will take place at the student's neighborhood Boise School District school. For private school students who do not reside in Boise, the neighborhood school is the Boise School District's public school near where the student's private school is located.

6. How long does it take to find a student eligible for special education services?

Once a Boise School District school receives a student referral from the District office, the neighborhood school convenes a Evaluation Team meeting to determine whether the student needs to be evaluated for special education. If they determine that assessments are required, the school will complete the assessments and hold an eligibility meeting. The time period for this process must not exceed 60 days from the date of the signed consent to evaluate.

7. Can consent for evaluations be withdrawn before testing is completed and restarted at a later date?

Consent for evaluations may be withdrawn but the school system will retain a file of any testing completed up to the point of the withdrawal. A parent may make a referral to restart the testing at any time in the future. The Evaluation Team will review the referral and determine whether testing is warranted.

8. Will public school staff be sent to the private school?

Services will be provided within a Boise School District school.

9. What services are available to a private school student with disabilities?

After evaluations are completed, an eligibility meeting is held at the neighborhood school to determine eligibility. If the student is found eligible for special education, he/she will be offered placement at the neighborhood school with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). If the parent declines the placement and chooses to have the student remain at the private school, the student may be eligible for a Service Plan (SP), if the services are appropriate for the student's needs. If the eligible student is not a resident of Boise, he/she will be offered a SP if appropriate. If the parent prefers an IEP he/she will need to develop an IEP with the appropriate school team in their home district.

10. What is the difference between in IEP (Individualized Education Program) and a SP (Services Plan)?

The IEP is a written statement that specifies the individual needs of the child and what special education and related services are necessary to meet those needs. The services are provided through the public schools. The SP indicates the service(s) the student may receive when the student attends a parentally-placed private school. A student with a SP may receive the following service: speech/language therapy. The school may request a one time consultation or training.

11. Can a student receive the same amount of special education service through a SP as he or she would receive through an IEP?

A parentally-placed private school student with a disability is not entitled to receive some or all of the special education and related services that the student would receive if enrolled in a public school. The services Boise School District offers in a SP were established in the Statement of Services Agreement developed between the Boise School District and representatives from private schools.

12. If a private school student is determined to be eligible for special education services and the parent rejects services offered through an IEP, what is the process if the parent later requests support?

For resident students, the parents would make a request for services by contacting the neighborhood school. The IEP/SP team would convene to determine whether updated information is needed and what, if any, services the student would receive. If the parent chooses to enroll his/her child in the public school, the IEP will be implemented at a public school. If the parent decides to have the student continue at the private school, a SP may be offered if the services in a SP are appropriate for the student's needs. SP services are outlined in the Statement of Services Agreement.

For non-resident students attending a private school located within the Boise School District, the parents would contact the Boise public school closest to the private school and request a SP meeting. If the parent wants an IEP for the student, he/she would contact the school district in his or her city of residence.

13. Who is responsible for conducting the reevaluation and managing special education services for a parentally-placed private school student with a SP?

The reevaluation should take place in the school where the student is receiving special education services. The school providing services manages the student's SP.