For more in-depth information contact: The Parent Information Center at: (603) 224-7005 or (800) 947-7005 or by email at: info@picnh.org.

The Transition Plan

Planning for transition begins when your child turns 27 months, or earlier if your child is found no longer eligible for ESS, or as soon as possible if your child enters ESS after 27 months of age. At this time, a written transition plan is developed and becomes part of your child's IFSP. As part of the transition plan, the IFSP Team, which includes you, will decide whether or not your child is potentially eligible for preschool special education and discuss the notification/referral process. Your ESS Service Coordinator will also explain your right to opt-out of making a notification/referral.



Unless you choose to opt-out, your ESS Service Coordinator will send a notification/referral for special education to your local school district. This is a request that the school district consider your child for special education eligibility. Your ESS Service Coordinator will ask for your written permission to share other information such as recent evaluations and your child's current IFSP with the school.

Decision Making Meeting (Disposition of Referral)

After the school receives a referral, they must hold a meeting with you and other members of the Individual Education Program (IEP) team, within 15 business days. The parent is a member of the IEP team. This meeting is to discuss all available information about your child and to see if the IEP team needs more information to determine if your child is eligible for special education.

Evaluation

The IEP team may decide that they need more information to determine if your child qualifies for special education. Your written permission for any evaluation or observation is required. The school has 60 calendar days from the date you sign permission to complete the testing and hold an IEP team meeting to determine if your child is eligible for special education. In addition, you must be provided copies of the evaluation reports 5 days prior to the IEP meeting.

Determination of Eligibility

Based on the information provided by ESS and you. along with any evaluations the school may have done, the IEP team determines if your child is eligible for special education and determines a disability classification, also known as a code. To be eligible the child's disability must negatively impact their educational performance.

Development of the Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Within 30 days after your child is found eligible for special education, the IEP team meets to begin develop the IEP. Sometimes this happens at the same meeting where eligibility is determined. You have 14 calendar days to sign the IEP and you may choose to provide consent, give partial consent, refuse consent or request another meeting. The IEP must be agreed upon and signed by both you and the school district by your child's third birthday.



Determination of 6 Educational Placement

After the IEP has been signed by you & the school district representative, the IEP team determines your child's educational placement to implement the IEP.

Placement is decided on an individual basis and options may include a variety of settings. Placement, however, must be in the child's Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).



The Transition Conference

To ensure a smooth transition, vour ESS Service Coordinator will schedule and facilitate a Transition Conference with you and your local school district. The Transition Conference must happen after a notification/referral has been made. but at least 90 days before your child turns 3. At this conference you will talk about the program options for your child, create a plan for the transition process with the school, and update the Transition Plan in the IFSP.

Some Additional Parental Rights



You have the right to:

- A signed IEP in place on your child's 3rd birthday, even if their third birthday occurs during the summer
- Invite ESS Service Coordinator (or others) to any meeting
- Participate in all meetings
- Request an IEP meeting and have that meeting within 21 days of the request
- Give or withhold written consent
- Access your child's educational records
- Be notified about important decision regarding your child's education (Written Prior Notice)
- 10 days advance written notice of IEP meetings
- Receive information in a way that is understandable
- Be provided with an interpreter or translator, if needed
- File a complaint, request mediation, request a facilitated IEP meeting, request a neutral conference or request a due process hearing

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