

MEMO

TO: Parents of Children Who Attend Private, Parochial or Non-public Schools
or Are Educated at Home

FROM: Lori Murdock, Director of Special Education
Freshwater Education District

RE: Identification of Students with Disabilities

I am writing to explain your rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004) which requires public school districts to identify children in nonpublic schools who have disabilities within its school district's boundaries.

Should you perceive that your child has a disability and is not making satisfactory academic, social behavioral and/or communicative progress and has a substantial limitation in the areas of learning and communicating, you may seek a screening and evaluation through the public school whose boundaries contain the private school your child attends. The evaluation will be designed to determine whether or not your child has a disability as defined by special education eligibility criteria in Minnesota Rule (MR) 3525. For children with disabilities who are found eligible to receive special education services, parents will be invited to participate on a planning team that will review the information and propose services. The process of evaluation, eligibility determination, and potential service plan development is as follows:

1. You will be invited to attend an evaluation planning team meeting at the public school. Representatives from the nonpublic school will be invited to attend also. The team will review the information presented by your child's teacher, evaluator and/or other staff. You will also have an opportunity to share information as you deem appropriate.
2. You will receive a written notice of the proposed evaluation for your approval. This notice requires written permission by the parent prior to the public school conducting the evaluation.
3. Once written parental permission is received, then the public school special education staff will conduct your child's evaluation. You will have an opportunity to provide further information about your child's needs as a part of the evaluation.
4. The planning team will complete an Evaluation Report, and the team will make a decision regarding your child's eligibility for special education.

If your child is evaluated and found to be a child with a disability who is in need of special education services under MN Rule 3525, the District will consider your child's individual needs and offer Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and a plan of services that meets all instructional needs arising from the disability. The plan of services will be developed at a team meeting. The team will include a special education teacher, a general education teacher, parents, and a representative of the private school. The District will stand ready to provide FAPE if parents choose to reject services

Additionally, throughout the school year, private school officials and parents of parentally placed children with disabilities are invited to contact a public school district representative by telephone or email if they have any related questions.

Please contact the public school building administrator for further information and referral procedure.

August 2015