

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1) What is an IEP?
- 2) I believe that my child should be receiving special education services. Whom should I contact?
- 3) My child was evaluated by someone not associated with the school (independent education evaluation). How will the district use this information?
- 4) My child qualified for "special education". Does that mean my child will be attending a special classroom?
- 5) I have questions about the special education services my child is receiving. Whom should I contact?
- 6) I have contacted my child's case manager, building principal, and/or the Director of Special Education about questions I have about the special education services my child is receiving. I have additional questions. Whom can I contact?

Answers

- ^ 1) **Q What is an IEP?**
- * **A** IEP stands for an Individualized Education Program. An IEP is a written plan of education for a student who has a disability or is gifted. The IEP is based on the specific needs of the student and describes the services the student will receive in school.
- ^ 2) **Q I believe that my child should be receiving special education services. Whom should I contact?**
- * **A** At the elementary level (grades K-6), please contact the building principal or assistant principal. At the secondary level (grades 7-12), please contact your child's school counselor.
- ^ 3) **Q My child was evaluated by someone not associated with the school (independent education evaluation). How will the district use this information?**
- * **A** The information from an IEE (independent education evaluation) is very important to us. It may provide background information that could be useful in our evaluation. The school district will consider the recommendations and information from an IEE in our evaluation process.
- ^ 4) **Q My child qualified for "special education". Does that mean my child will be attending a special classroom?**
- * **A** There are two very different aspects of special education: special education "services" and special education "placement". Special education services are a continuum of specially designed instruction that is provided to your child that specifically targets the individual needs of each student. The special education placement is the class (or place) where the services will be provided. For example, the special education "service" may be that the child receives specific, direct instruction that targets an area of weakness as a result of a specific learning disability. The "placement" of these services could be in a multitude of classrooms such as a regular education or learning support classroom.
- ^ 5) **Q I have questions about the special education services my child is receiving. Whom should I contact?**
- * **A** If you have questions about the special education services your child is receiving, you should contact your child's case manager. Each student receiving special education services is assigned a case manager. The case manager is responsible for managing all services, modifications, and accommodations that are outlined in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). As a result, the case manager is the person who would have the most information relating to your child and his/her services.
- ^ 6) **Q I have contacted my child's case manager, building principal, and/or the Director of Special Education about questions I have about the special education services my child is receiving. I have additional questions. Whom can I contact?**

- ✦ **A** The Office for Dispute Resolution, a Pennsylvania Department of Education funded project, has services, available at no cost, for parents and guardians of children with disabilities and educational agencies that serve them.

ConsultLine Toll free in PA: 1-800-879-2301
Outside PA: 717-541-4960

ConsultLine is a toll-free parent helpline for special education questions and concerns. Advisors will answer questions and provide information about the special education process and the laws governing such programs for parents of children with disabilities and educational agencies that serve them.

Office for Dispute Resolution 1-800-222-3353 <http://odr.pattan.net>

The Office for Dispute Resolution provides the resources for parents and educational agencies to resolve disputes concerning the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of a free and appropriate public education for students with disabilities, students who are gifted and children with disabilities served by the early intervention process. ODR provides Individualized Education Program (IEP) Facilitation, Mediation, and Dispute Resolution Skills Training, Due Process and Appeals Panel Process, and a Speakers' Bureau.