FREE GUIDE

Alabama special education deadlines

Sources last checked between Nov 16, 2026 and Nov 20, 2026
State rules as of November 20, 2026

RULE	FIRST LINE OF THE RULE	SOURCE
EVALUATIONS		
Completing an initial evaluation	In Alabama, the school must finish your child's first evaluation within 60 calendar days.	Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-8-9-.02(1)(b); ALSDE Special Education Referral guidance (updated April 4, 2024)
FIRST IEP MEETING		
The initial IEP after eligibility	Alabama follows the federal rule.	Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-8-9-.05(2)(b); 34 CFR § 300.323(c)(1)
SCHOOL RECORDS		
Timing of access to education records	You have the right to review your child's education records that the school keeps or uses under IDEA.	34 CFR 99.10(b); 34 CFR 300.613(a)
IEP REVIEWS AND REEVALUATIONS		
Regular IDEA reevaluation	Your child must be reevaluated at least once every three years, unless you and the school agree it isn't needed.	34 CFR 300.303(a), (b)
Reviewing the IEP at least annually	Your child's IEP team must review the IEP periodically, and at least once a year, to see whether the annual goals are being met.	34 CFR 300.324(b)(1)(i)
TRANSITION PLANNING		
When transition goals and services begin	Under IDEA, your child's IEP must include transition goals and services, starting no later than the first IEP in effect when your child turns 16.	34 CFR 300.320(b)
RIGHTS AT ADULTHOOD		
Advance notice about the transfer of IDEA rights	In Alabama, at least a year before your child turns 19, the IEP must say your child was told about any IDEA rights that will transfer to them at 19.	Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-8-9-.05(6)(n), r. 290-8-9-.08(8)
The state's age of majority and IDEA rights	In Alabama, special education rights under IDEA transfer from you to your child at age 19.	Ala. Code § 26-1-1(a); Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-8-9-.08(8)
PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION		
Preschool special education by age three	Alabama: An eligible child moving from early intervention needs a preschool IEP by the third birthday.	Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-8-9-.01(1)(d), r. 290-8-9-.05(2)(a)
Moving from early intervention to preschool	Alabama: Start the transition plan with your early-intervention team at 27 months, or when you join later.	Alabama's Early Intervention System Handbook (November 1, 2025), Transition, p. 23
OTHER RULES		
Section 504 protections in school discipline	Alabama: Before a significant disciplinary change in placement, the school must review whether the behavior was related to the student's disability.	34 CFR § 104.35(a); OCR Section 504 Discipline Guidance (2022), pp. 19–20
An IEP in place for the start of school	Alabama: An IEP must be in place when the school year starts.	Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-8-9-.05(2)(a)–(b)
Give written notice before moving to a private school	If you plan to move your child to a private school and ask the district to pay, give the district written notice at least 10 business days before your child leaves the public school.	34 CFR 300.148(d)–(e); 300.11(b)
IEP services after a move from another state	Alabama: During a same-school-year move from another state, the new school provides comparable IEP services while it completes any needed evaluation and IEP process.	Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-8-9-.05(10)(b); 34 CFR § 300.323(f)

Planning aid only. Not legal advice. Confirm the date with the governing source.
Full answers and source links: https://endeavy.com/special-education-deadlines/alabama