FREE GUIDE

Arkansas 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		
Responding to an evaluation request	In Arkansas, within 7 calendar days after the school receives a written referral, it must schedule a referral conference at a time and place agreed with you and send you written notice of the referral and the conference.	6 CAR § 130-403(a), (d)
Completing an initial evaluation	Under federal law, the school generally must finish your child's initial evaluation within 60 calendar days after it receives your consent, unless your state sets its own timeline.	34 CFR 300.301(c)–(e); 300.309(c); 300.306(a)(1)
FIRST IEP MEETING		
The initial IEP after eligibility	In Arkansas, the federal rule applies.	6 CAR §§ 130-804(b)(2), 130-803(b)(1)(B); 34 C.F.R. § 300.323(c)(1)–(2)
SCHOOL RECORDS		
Timing of access to education records	Arkansas follows the federal rule.	6 CAR § 130-1601(a)(2), (b)(2)–(3); 6 CAR § 130-215(1)
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 Arkansas, at least a year before your child turns 18, the IEP must say your child was told about any IDEA rights that will transfer to them at 18.	6 CAR § 130-808(c); 6 CAR § 130-907
The state's age of majority and IDEA rights	In Arkansas, special education rights under IDEA transfer from you to your child at age 18.	6 CAR § 130-907(a)–(b)
PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION		
Preschool special education by age three	For a child moving from early intervention (Part C) to preschool special education, an IEP, or an IFSP where that is allowed, must be developed and in place by the third birthday.	34 CFR 300.124(b); 300.101(b); 300.102(a)(1), (4)
Moving from early intervention to preschool	Arkansas: The IFSP usually needs a transition plan at least 90 days before the third birthday.	20 CAR § 1002-504(a)(10) (effective September 5, 2025)
OTHER RULES		
Section 504 protections in school discipline	Arkansas: A student with a 504 plan has discipline protections too.	34 CFR § 104.35(a); Arkansas DESE Section 504 Manual (2025), pp. 67–68; A.C.A. § 6-18-503
Give written notice before moving to a private school	In Arkansas, 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.	6 CAR § 130-1415(d)–(e); 34 CFR § 300.148(d)–(e)
IEP services after a move within the state	Arkansas (same as the federal rule): When a student with an IEP in effect transfers within the state during the same school year, the new district must provide comparable services while it adopts the existing IEP or develops and implements a new one.	6 CAR § 130-803(c)

Planning aid only. Not legal advice. Confirm the date with the governing source.

Full answers and source links: https://endeavy.com/special-education-deadlines/arkansas