FREE GUIDE

Colorado 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	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	Once the team decides your child needs special education and related services, a meeting to write your child's first IEP must be held within 30 calendar days.	34 CFR 300.323(c)(1)
SCHOOL RECORDS		
Timing of access to education records	Colorado uses the federal rule.	34 CFR § 300.613(a)
Copies of records, fees and access barriers	Colorado: Copy fees cannot prevent access to education records.	34 CFR § 300.617; 34 CFR § 99.11
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	In Colorado, transition goals and services must be in the first IEP written after your child turns 15, and no later than the end of ninth grade.	1 CCR 301-8, 4.03(6)(d)(i)–(iii), 4.03(7)(b)(i)
RIGHTS AT ADULTHOOD		
Advance notice about the transfer of IDEA rights	In Colorado, beginning no later than age 20, the IEP must say your child was told about rights that may transfer to them at 21.	1 CCR 301-8 6.02(9); 1 CCR 301-8 4.03(6)(e)
The state's age of majority and IDEA rights	In Colorado, special education rights under IDEA transfer from you to your child at age 21.	1 CCR 301-8 sections 4.03(6)(e), 6.02, 6.02(9); 34 CFR 300.520(a)
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	Colorado: Planning for the move from early intervention to preschool services starts before age 3.	1 CCR 301-8 §§ 4.03(1)(c), 5.01(6)
OTHER RULES		
When a manifestation determination must occur	Colorado (same as the federal rule): A manifestation determination review must happen within 10 school days of a decision that changes placement for discipline.	34 CFR § 300.530(e)(1)–(3)
Section 504 protections in school discipline	Colorado State Board of Education rules say that when the school unilaterally shortens your child's day because of behavior, it must count and track that time as disciplinary removal when deciding whether a disability-related review is required.	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-20-123(3)(a), (c); 1 Colo. Code Regs. § 301-8, r. 8.01(1)(j)(ii)(I)–(II)
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 within the state	Colorado (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.	1 CCR 301-8, 4.03(1)(f), 4.03(8)(b)(iv); 34 CFR § 300.323(a), (e)
IEP services after a move from another state	Colorado: During a same-school-year move from another state, the new school provides comparable IEP services while it completes any needed evaluation and new IEP.	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/colorado