FREE GUIDE

Federal special education deadlines

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

RULE	FIRST LINE OF THE RULE	SOURCE
EVALUATIONS		
Responding to an evaluation request	Federal law does not set a fixed number of days to respond to an evaluation request.	34 CFR 300.301(b)–(c), 300.503(a)–(b); OSEP Memorandum 11-07 p. 3
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	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)
Copies of records, fees and access barriers	Under IDEA, copying fees cannot prevent a parent from reviewing records, and the school cannot charge for searching or retrieving them.	34 CFR 300.617(a)–(b); 300.613(b)(2)
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	The age of majority is when your child becomes a legal adult under state law.	34 CFR 300.320(c); 300.520(a)–(b)
The state's age of majority and IDEA rights	Your state's law sets the age of majority, when your child becomes a legal adult.	34 CFR 300.520(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	For a toddler in early intervention who may be eligible for preschool special education, the early intervention program, with your family's approval, holds a transition conference with you and the school district at least 90 days before your child's third birthday.	34 CFR 303.209(c)(1); 303.209(b)–(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/federal