FREE GUIDE

Iowa 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	Iowa uses the same 60 calendar days as federal law.	Iowa Admin. Code r. 281—41.301(3)"a"
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	Iowa follows the federal rule.	Iowa Administrative Code 281—41.613(1)
Copies of records, fees and access barriers	Iowa IDEA agencies may charge for copies only if the fee does not effectively prevent parents from inspecting and reviewing records.	Iowa Administrative Code rr. 281-41.613(2)(b), 281-41.617(1)–(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	In Iowa, your child's IEP must be reviewed at least once every 12 months, and sooner when your child's needs or progress call for it.	Iowa Administrative Code 281—41.324(2)(a)
TRANSITION PLANNING		
When transition goals and services begin	In Iowa, transition goals and services begin with the first IEP in effect when your child turns 14, or earlier if the IEP team decides that's appropriate.	Iowa Administrative Code 281—41.320(2); 41.324(4)(a)(2)
RIGHTS AT ADULTHOOD		
Advance notice about the transfer of IDEA rights	In Iowa, at least a year before your child reaches the age of majority, the IEP must say your child was told about any IDEA rights that will transfer.	Iowa Admin. Code rr. 281—41.320(3), .520(1)–(2)
The state's age of majority and IDEA rights	In Iowa, special education rights under IDEA transfer from you to your child at age 18.	Iowa Admin. Code 281—41.520(1)-(2); Iowa Code 599.1(1)-(2); 34 CFR 300.520
PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION		
Preschool special education by age three	Iowa: For an eligible child moving from Part C to preschool special education, the IEP must be developed and implemented by the third birthday.	Iowa Administrative Code 281—41.124(1)-(3); 41.101(2)
Moving from early intervention to preschool	Iowa: Plan the move from early intervention before age 3.	281—120.209(2)-(6)
OTHER RULES		
When a manifestation determination must occur	Iowa follows the federal rule.	Iowa Administrative Code 281—41.530(5)(a); 41.536
Section 504 protections in school discipline	Iowa: A student with a 504 plan has discipline protections too.	34 CFR 104.35(a)
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	Iowa: 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.	Iowa Administrative Code 281—41.323(5)
IEP services after a move from another state	Iowa: When a student with an IEP in effect transfers from another state during the same school year, the new district must provide comparable services.	Iowa Administrative Code 281—41.323(6)

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