FREE GUIDE

Maine 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	If additional evaluations are needed after a referral, a school administrative unit must send a consent form within fifteen school days of receipt.	05-071 C.M.R. ch. 101, § IV.2.E
Completing an initial evaluation	In Maine, for a child 5 or older whose public school district is doing the evaluation, the evaluation and the eligibility decision must happen within 45 school days.	05-071 C.M.R. ch. 101, § V.1.A(3)(a)-(b), VI.2.C(2); Maine DOE June 12, 2026 emergency filing
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)
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 Maine, 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.	MUSER §IX.3.D(1)(a)–(b); 34 C.F.R. §300.324(b)
TRANSITION PLANNING		
When transition goals and services begin	In Maine, the IEP team must adopt a transition plan during your child's ninth-grade school year, or the year your child turns 16, whichever comes first, and update it every year.	MUSER IX.3.A(1)(h), VI.2.C; 34 CFR 300.320(b); Maine DOE Developing Compliant Transition Plans (Oct. 30 2025)
RIGHTS AT ADULTHOOD		
Advance notice about the transfer of IDEA rights	In Maine, 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.	Maine Unified Special Education Regulation (MUSER) § IX.3.A(1)(h)(iii)
The state's age of majority and IDEA rights	In Maine, your IDEA rights as a parent transfer to your child at age 18.	05-071 C.M.R. ch. 101, § XV and App. 1 (Transfer of parental rights at age of majority); 1 M.R.S. § 73
PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION		
Preschool special education by age three	Maine: the ordinary Part B rule requires an IEP in effect by the eligible child's third birthday; for a summer birthday, the IEP team determines when services begin.	20-A M.R.S. §§7001(3-C), 7209(3), (3-A); 34 CFR 300.101(b), 300.102(a)(4); Maine DOE Part C-to-Part B transition guidance (November 12, 2025)
Moving from early intervention to preschool	Maine: start the early-intervention-to-preschool transition well before age 3.	05-071 C.M.R. ch. 101, Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty-Two (MUSER)
OTHER RULES		
Section 504 protections in school discipline	Maine: discipline that changes placement can trigger a Section 504 review.	29 U.S.C. § 794; 34 C.F.R. Part 104
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)

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

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