FREE GUIDE

Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island, within 10 school days after the school receives a referral for special education, the evaluation team, which includes you, must meet to decide whether your child needs a special education evaluation.	200-RICR-20-30-6 § 6.7.2(A)(1)(a)(1)
Completing an initial evaluation	Rhode Island gives the school 63 calendar days from consent receipt to finish the initial evaluation, share the report and decide eligibility.	R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-24-1.1(f)–(g); 200-RICR-20-30-6 §6.7.2(A)(1)(a)-(c)
FIRST IEP MEETING		
The initial IEP after eligibility	In Rhode Island, the first IEP meeting must be held within 15 school days after the team decides your child needs special education and related services.	200-RICR-20-30-6 §§6.4(G), 6.7.2(A)(1)(c), 6.7.4(D)(1); R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-24-1.1(a), (f)–(i)
SCHOOL RECORDS		
Timing of access to education records	In Rhode Island, once you ask to see your child's education records, the school must let you see them within 10 calendar days.	200-RICR-20-30-6 §6.9.2(C)(1)
Copies of records, fees and access barriers	The school may charge for copies only when the fee does not prevent access to the records.	200-RICR-20-30-6 §6.9.2(C), (G); 34 CFR 300.613(b)(2), 300.617; R.I. Gen. Laws §16-71-3(a)(3)
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 Rhode Island, 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.	200-RICR-20-30-6 §6.7.5(A); 34 CFR 300.324(b)(1)
TRANSITION PLANNING		
When transition goals and services begin	In Rhode Island, your child's IEP must include transition goals and services starting at age 14, or earlier if the IEP team finds that appropriate.	200-RICR-20-30-6 §6.7.4(A)(2),(C)(2); 34 CFR 300.320(b)
RIGHTS AT ADULTHOOD		
Advance notice about the transfer of IDEA rights	In Rhode Island, by your child's 17th birthday, the IEP must say your child was told about any IDEA rights that will transfer at 18.	200-RICR-20-30-6.3(A)-(B), 6.7.4(A), 6.8.1(U); incorporated 34 CFR §300.320(c) (December 2018)
The state's age of majority and IDEA rights	In Rhode Island, special education rights under IDEA transfer from you to your child at age 18.	200-RICR-20-30-6.8.1(U)(1)-(3); R.I. Gen. Laws §15-12-1
PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION		
Preschool special education by age three	Eligible children must have an IEP or permitted IFSP in effect by their third birthday.	200-RICR-20-30-6 §§ 6.5.1(A), 6.5.2(J)(1)–(2); 34 CFR 300.101(b)
Moving from early intervention to preschool	Rhode Island: early intervention generally notifies the school by the end of the month the child turns 28 months.	EOHHS Early Intervention Certification Standards, VIII. Transition (October 2024 final), pp.1-4
OTHER RULES		
When a manifestation determination must occur	A manifestation determination is required within 10 school days after a decision to change placement for disciplinary reasons.	200-RICR-20-30-6 §6.8.2(A),(G)(1); 34 CFR 300.530(e)
Section 504 protections in school discipline	Rhode Island: a school's zero-tolerance policy cannot override a student's protections under Section 504 or IDEA.	200-RICR-20-30-2.2(A)(28)
The school's response to an IEE request	If you disagree with an evaluation the school obtained and request an independent educational evaluation (IEE) at public expense, the school must act without unnecessary delay and within 15 calendar days after receiving the request: ensure the IEE at public expense or file for due process to defend its evaluation.	200-RICR-20-30-6 § 6.8.1(C)(1); 34 CFR 300.502(b)(1), (2), (5)
An IEP in place for the start of school	An IEP must be in effect for each eligible student when the school year begins.	34 CFR 300.323(a)
Give written notice before moving to a private school	In Rhode Island, 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.	200-RICR-20-30-6 §6.5.5; 34 CFR 300.148(d)(1),(e)
IEP services after a move within the state	For a same-school-year move between Rhode Island public agencies, the receiving agency must provide comparable IEP services in consultation with the parent while it adopts the prior IEP or develops and implements a new one.	200-RICR-20-30-6 §6.7.4(D)(2); R.I. Gen. Laws §16-24-1(e); 34 CFR 300.323(e)

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