FREE GUIDE

Virginia 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	Within three business days after the special education administrator receives a referral, the administrator must begin the evaluation process, direct a school-team review or deny the request.	8 Va. Admin. Code § 20-81-50(D)(3)(b), (5)(a)
Completing an initial evaluation	In Virginia, the evaluation and the eligibility decision generally must be finished within 65 business days after the school division's special education administrator, or someone they designate, receives the referral.	8VAC20-81-60(B)(1)(g)–(h)
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	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 Virginia, goals for life after high school (postsecondary goals) and transition services must be in your child's IEP before they enter secondary school.	8VAC20-81-110(G)(10)(a)–(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	In Virginia, IDEA rights usually transfer from you to your child at 18, when your child is presumed to be a competent adult.	8VAC20-81-180(A)–(D)
PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION		
Preschool special education by age three	Children who need special education and related services can become eligible at age two in Virginia if their second birthday falls on or before September 30.	Va. Code § 22.1-213; 8 Va. Admin. Code §§ 20-81-10, 20-81-20(1)
Moving from early intervention to preschool	For a child who may qualify for preschool special education, the family-approved transition conference must be held at least 90 days, and up to nine months, before the third birthday or the expected earlier move to preschool for children who are two by September 30.	12 Va. Admin. Code § 35-225-190(D), (F)
OTHER RULES		
When a manifestation determination must occur	The school must hold the meeting to review whether your child's behavior is related to the disability immediately if possible, and no later than ten school days after deciding on the disciplinary placement change.	8 Va. Admin. Code § 20-81-160(D)(2)
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	For a child placed in a private residential school through Virginia's Children's Services Act, the new school district must adopt or revise and start the IEP within 30 calendar days after receiving written notice of the child's transfer.	8 Va. Admin. Code § 20-81-120(D)
IEP services after a move from another state	For a child with an IEP who moves from another state during the same school year, the new school district must provide comparable services and obtain your consent before adopting the previous IEP or starting a new one.	8 Va. Admin. Code § 20-81-120(A)(1)(b), (A)(2)(a)–(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/virginia