FREE GUIDE

Washington 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	The school must decide whether to evaluate your child within 20 school days after it receives your written request, and give you written notice.	WAC 392-172A-03005(2)(c)–(d), as amended by WSR 26-21-034 (effective November 14, 2026)
Completing an initial evaluation	In Washington, this applies if the district received your written consent on or after June 11, 2026.	RCW 28A.155.265(1)-(4), (7)-(8); RCW 28A.150.203(10); WAC 392-172A-03005(3), as amended by WSR 26-21-034 (effective November 14, 2026); OSPI ESHB 2557 Q&A (June 2, 2026), A2.B
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	Washington IDEA agencies may charge for copies only if the fee does not effectively prevent parents from inspecting and reviewing records.	WAC 392-172A-05210(1)–(2); RCW 28A.225.330(3) (separate military-transfer scope)
IEP REVIEWS AND REEVALUATIONS		
Regular IDEA reevaluation	Washington follows the federal rule.	WAC 392-172A-03015
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	In Washington, IDEA rights usually transfer from you to your child at 18.	WAC 392-172A-05135(1)–(6)
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 child coming from early intervention who may qualify for preschool special education, the school district must join the transition meeting at least 90 days before the third birthday.	Wash. Admin. Code § 392-172A-02080(2)(a)–(b), as amended by WSR 26-21-034 (effective November 14, 2026)
OTHER RULES		
When a manifestation determination must occur	Washington (same as the federal rule): A manifestation determination review must happen within 10 school days of a decision that changes placement for discipline.	WAC 392-172A-05146(1)
Section 504 protections in school discipline	During a suspension, expulsion or emergency removal, the school must provide opportunities to continue your child's education and consider your child's regular Section 504 accommodations and related services.	WAC 392-400-610(1)(b)–(c)(ii)
The school's response to an IEE request	The school must pay for an independent evaluation without unnecessary delay or request a hearing within 15 calendar days after receiving the parent's request to defend its evaluation.	Wash. Admin. Code §§ 392-172A-05005(2)(c), (7), 392-172A-01050(1)
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/washington