

Services Available for Children Experiencing Difficulties

All children learn differently. If a child is exhibiting little or no progress in an area of concern after receiving interventions, they may qualify for special education and/or related services. Screening and evaluation are available at no cost to the family.



Qualifying for Special Education Services & Support

If your child is experiencing difficulties with any of the following, they might qualify for extra support.

- Hearing or vision challenges
- Physical challenges with motor skills, coordination, or physical movement
- Social interactions or emotional regulation challenges
- Challenges with speech, language, or communication
- Developmental delays or not meeting developmental milestones appropriate for their age
- Issues with ability to learn and participate in classroom
- Complications with processing information and focus

How to Get Additional Services

- 1** **Identify children** in one of two ways: For CPS students, a written referral from a parent, guardian, or school personnel, or, for non-CPS students, through **Child Find**.
- 2** After the **request for an evaluation is submitted**, the school-based team creates a referral. The team will then gather data to determine if a special education evaluation is warranted or not warranted. If an evaluation is warranted, the school team will notify the parent/guardian within 14 school days of receipt of the initial referral. Once consent is provided from the parent/guardian to conduct an evaluation, the school team has 60 school days to complete the evaluation process.
- 3** If the child **does not qualify** for services, the team may consider eligibility under a Section 504 Plan or suggest other support.
- 4** If the child **qualifies for services**, an **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** team develops a plan to address the child's needs and goals.
- 5** Each child's IEP is **shared with the child's teachers and service providers**. Specific responsibilities are carried out as noted.
- 6** **Progress is measured** toward annual goals and parents are regularly informed.
- 7** The team **reviews the IEP** at least once a year or as requested by the parents/guardians or school and revises as necessary. **Reevaluation** is conducted every three years.



Child Find is an ongoing process in CPS that identifies, locates, and evaluates children from ages 3-21.

Help Is Available



For more information or questions, please email the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) at osd@cps.edu or call the OSD Helpline at (773) 553-1800.

