

Continuum of options of support and services for children in New Jersey.

• *Children without a known diagnosis*

• *Children with a known diagnosis*

(Birth to 3) Early Intervention
888-653-4463

<http://www.njeis.org/>

(Birth to 3)

*For children receiving E.I., the LEA should be contacted 120 days prior to their 3rd birthday to begin transition process so there is no break in services.

(AGE 3-5)

Local Education Agency (LEA): School district or county child study team to assess if evaluation for eligibility for special education preschool disability services under IDEA is warranted.

(AGE 3-5)

*The evaluation process begins with a written request for evaluation & must be completed within 90 days to determine eligibility and to develop an IEP. If eligibility is denied, there are protocols for appeal: including independent evaluations, mediation & due process which can be found in the PRISE (Parents rights in special education) published by the New Jersey Office of Special Education: <http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/form/prise/prise.pdf>

EARLY INTERVENTION TIMELINE

**WITHIN
45 DAYS**

REFERRAL (within 2 days of identification)



Appoint Service Coordinator



Conduct a Multidisciplinary evaluation, convene an eligibility determination and first IFSP meeting



IFSP completed and services to begin in reasonable time (within 30 days)



NEXT STEPS:
6 MONTH REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ANNUAL RE-EVALUATION

TIME TO TRANSITION:



Initial contact to LEA/school district 120 DAYS PRIOR TO 3RD BIRTHDAY must meet at LEAST 90 DAYS prior to 3rd birth to avoid break in services if found eligible for IEP.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TIMELINE FOR STUDENTS AGES 3-21

1ST STEP:

Identification and referral which is initiated with a written request to LEA/ local school district for Child Study Team evaluation of the children age 3-21 years of age.

↓ Within 20 Calendar days of receiving referral:

School district must: *convene a meeting to assess child to decide whether evaluation is warranted to determine if the child meets eligibility for special education services (IEP) and provide a written response of their decision to the parents within 15 days of meeting.*

YES NO →

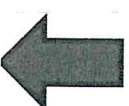
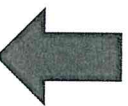
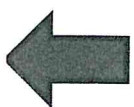
CST may make recommendations with respect to services & interventions to be provided to the student in the general education classroom which may include:

- Referral to the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS)
- 504 plan for students with known disabilities or diagnosis.
- Referral to community services and state agencies.
- Parent may file for mediation and/or Due Process *See

PRISE: Parent Rights in Special Education guide.

CONSENT & EVALUATIONS:

- Determination of what evaluations will be conducted (IDEA requires evaluation all areas of suspected disability & with a minimum of 2 criterion.)
- Written consent of parent. (Parent has 15 days to consider consent & proposals.)



CST HAS 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF RECEIPT OF WRITTEN CONSENT TO:

- **Conduct Evaluation/Eligibility Meeting and determine classification** (*parents must receive copies of all evaluations at least 10 days prior to Eligibility meeting*)
- **If eligible, develop and implement of the IEP if the parent agrees.** (*Parents must consent for initial implementation of the 1st IEP & for all re-evaluations.*)



IF THE PARENT DISAGREES WITH CST:

- **If Parent disagrees with any of the evaluation results, they may request Independent Educational Evaluations : IEE.** (*LEA/ school district may contest IEE by filing for due process.*)
- **If Parent disagrees with any part of the proposed IEP they may file for mediation and/or due process within 15 days of receipt.**

(**For rights and regulations review **PRISE** or contact **SPAN** 1-800-654-SPAN www.spannj.org)*)



WHEN THE PARENT AGREES WITH PROPOSED IEP:

- **Placement in the least restrictive environment** (NJAC 6A: Chapter 14-4.2)
- **Annual review of IEP**
- **Triennial re-evaluation** (*Sooner, if requested by teacher or parent or situation warrants.*)
- **Transition to adult life statement at age 14 and plan implementation by age 16.**

For more information regarding children's educational
rights please contact :

SPAN

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

35 Halsey St., Fourth Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 973-642-8100 Fax: 973-642-8080

Toll-free: 1-800-654-SPAN

Email: span@spannj.org