

Frequently Asked Questions

What is special education?

Special education is services for children with disabilities to help them learn. Disability means a child's mind or body works differently from other children.

Who can I talk to regarding special education in my child's school?

Within the school, parents can talk to their child's teacher or the principal. Parents may also reach out to the district Director of Special Programs.

What is an IEP?

An IEP is an Individualized Education Program written for a student who has a qualifying disability based on an evaluation. The IEP is based on the student's needs and outlines the special education services and support they will receive in school.

What is a special education placement?

Placement refers to how, when and with whom students will receive services for special education. Special education services can be provided in a variety of settings within a child's neighborhood school. The IEP team determines how, when, where, and with whom students will receive special education services.

What is Response to Intervention (RTI)?

RTI is a problem-solving approach schools use to identify and support students with learning and behavioral needs. The process may lead to a referral for special education based on the level of need.

Pendleton School District

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For More Information:

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Special Education

Parent Information Brochure

Pendleton School District



The Special Education Process and Timeline

Oregon gives districts 60 school days to complete evaluations from the time the parent/guardian signs consent.

Referral-School teams refer students for a special education evaluation when they suspect a disability. Parents may also request referral for a special education evaluation if they suspect a disability.

Evaluation-The school brings together a team to review existing information and decide if additional information is needed to determine a child has a qualifying disability.

Eligibility-A team that includes parents meets and reviews evaluation results to determine if a child has a qualifying disability and needs special education services.

Individualized Education Program-Children found eligible have a team that includes parents who develop an Individualized Education Program with goals, services and support for the child to learn and make progress.

You are your child's best advocate

Parents/Guardians of students who have IEP's have specific rights under the law known as procedural safeguards. You may request a copy at any time. These rights are to ensure parents are fully informed and partners in the decision-making process for their child. For example, you have the right to:

- Receive written notice inviting you to meetings
- Receive written notice of changes to services
- Receive a copy of your child's IEP
- Provide informed written consent for evaluations
- Request an Independent Evaluation if you disagree with an evaluation
- Invite individuals with knowledge about your child to meetings
- Seek assistants to resolve disagreements

You may request a copy of the procedural safeguards from your student's school, the district office, or access online through the [Oregon Department of Education](#)



“When you learn,
teach, when you
get, give.”

-Maya Angelou

What to do if you suspect your child has a disability School Age Children

Reach out to your child's teacher and discuss your concerns. If you feel your child may have a disability and need special education, you may tell your child's school you are requesting a referral for a special education evaluation.

Children who are not eligible for special education may qualify for accommodations in the classroom under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. School Counselors are available to help you through this eligibility process.

Preschool Age Children

Children ages birth to 5 may be eligible to receive Early Intervention or Early Childhood Special Education services through InterMountain Education Service District. You may request an evaluation online through this [link](#) or call 541-966-3121.