

Child Find for Special Education Services from the Indian Oasis-Baboquivari Unified School District 40

Special Education: What's It All About?

According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), all disabled children, from zero (0) to twenty-two (22) years of age, must receive a free, appropriate education. Children from ages zero (0) to three (3) are served by the Arizona Early Prevention Program, coordinated with the school district and the Tohono O'odham Nation Head Start program. The education must include special services related to the child's needs.

Special education is defined as a specially designed instructional program offered at no cost to the parent that will meet the needs of the disabled child. Special education may mean changing regular school curriculum, teaching methods, materials, and ideas to meet the needs of disabled children. It includes instruction in the classroom, physical education, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and other institutions. Related services must be provided when needed.

Schools are responsible for identification, referral, evaluation, placement, and review of placement for all disabled children who live in the Indian Oasis-Baboquivari School District.

Who Are "Children With Disabilities"?

The term "children with disabilities" means children with; mental retardation, hearing impairments including deafness, speech or language impairments, visual impairments including blindness, serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities; **and** who need special education and related services.

How Are Students Referred And Evaluated?

Anyone – a teacher, parent, school employee, a friend, or even the child him/herself – can refer a student for special education. Once the child is referred, an evaluation is done with the permission of the parent(s). Evaluations must be completed within sixty (60) days of the parent approval. If the child is placed in special education, he or she must be re-evaluated at least once every three years.

How Are Children Placed In Special Education Programs?

Children can only be placed in a special education program if the parent agrees that it is necessary. A meeting is held with the parent/guardian and the school personnel to discuss the results of the evaluation. If a child is placed in the program, services must begin within fifteen (15) school days.

What Is The Education Program For A Special Education Child?

Every child in special education must have an individualized educational program or plan (IEP). The IEP is developed by the school and parent(s). This program must include:

- 1) a statement of current education levels of the student;
- 2) a statement of annual goals;
- 3) a statement of the specific education to be provided;
- 4) a description of the time to be spent in a regular classroom;

- 5) a statement of the anticipated date the service(s) will begin and end;
- 6) a statement of the specific educational goals and the ways to evaluate when these goals have been met.

What If The Parent Does Not Agree With The School?

If the parent does not agree with the school's recommendations for his/her child, the parent may ask for an impartial hearing to discuss and decide what is best for the child. This is called a due process hearing. Procedures for asking for a due process hearing may be obtained from the school district office or by calling the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services.

Are The Records Of The Disabled Open To Anyone?

All records are kept confidential. Each year, parents are notified of the District's policy regarding confidentiality of student records and what rights they as parents have to review, correct, or receive a copy. The policy also states where records are kept. A copy of the policy may be reviewed in any school office or in the District Central Office.

What Services Are Provided By The Indian Oasis-Baboquivari Schools?

Services currently provided by the schools in the Indian Oasis-Baboquivari Unified School District 40 include:

- 1) referral, evaluation, and testing;
- 2) instructional programs for mentally retarded, the hearing impaired including deafness, speech or language impaired, visual impaired including blindness, serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impaired, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities.
- 3) special transportation; and
- 4) medical referrals.

What About Children Not Enrolled In The Public School?

The school district must provide services to students in private schools that are within the District's boundaries.

Where Can More Information Be Obtained?

For further information, or to refer a child for an evaluation, please contact any school principal or Madge Miranda, the Director of Special Education Services at the District Central Office, P.O. Box 248, Sells, AZ 85634, or call 520-383-6746 ext. 6721.

