
Special Needs Scholarship FAQ

1. What if the public school district refuses to write an IEP for a student that plans to attend private school?

A: DPI updated their [special ed bulletin](#) for districts this spring to specify that the LEA must create an IEP for any parent that requests one (see end of Q #16): “If the parent makes clear his or her intention to keep the child in the private school, the school district where the child resides need not develop an IEP and make FAPE available to the child. *However, if the parent requests an IEP, an IEP must be developed by the resident school district.*”

2. How do I know who to contact at the local district to verify an IEP for a SNSP applicant?

A: DPI has posted a list of [district contacts](#) on page three of the [SNSP application bulletin](#).

3. If a student at the private school has been receiving special education services from the local district (e.g. speech) through a Services Plan, does their application to the SNSP mean they can no longer receive services from the district?

A: No, they may continue to receive services from the district. However, federal law gives the LEA wide discretion on how they serve students parentally placed in a private school. According to the US Dept of Education, “*The [federal] regulations do not require LEAs to develop services plans for every parentally placed private school student with a disability residing in the LEA's jurisdiction. Services plans are required only for those parentally placed private school students with disabilities whom the LEA has elected to serve and should reflect only the services that the LEA has determined it will provide to the student. Any additional accommodations being provided by the private school should not be part of the services plan.*”

See <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oi/nonpublic/idea1.html>

4. What is the expected timeline for the Child Find process (referral to LEA where school is located, evaluation, and development of an IEP by resident district, if needed)?

A: DPI has posted a helpful [timeline](#) on their website, but the entire process is usually completed within 105 days.