

What is Special Education?



Special education can mean many kinds of help for your child. It can include technology, learning in small groups, transportation, speech therapy, and more.

Special education changes depending on your child's age.

AGE 0 - 3

If eligible, your child may enroll in the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP). AZEIP provides screenings and services for infants and toddlers and their families. You can fill out an application at azeip.azdes.gov.

AGE 3 - 5

If eligible, your child may receive early childhood special education, including free preschool. Your child does not need to be enrolled in school to be evaluated for services. Contact your local school district for information.

AGE 5 - 14

Children who are 5 years old by September 1st can attend kindergarten. All children starting kindergarten are screened for disabilities. If your child is older than 5 and does not have records from another school, they will also be screened. If your child's disability is not identified at this screening, you can send a written request to the school district to consider an evaluation.

AGE 14 - 22

Although most students graduate high school in 4 years after meeting the school's requirements, some students with disabilities may stay in school until they are 22. Students over 14 years old may also receive job-related services from the state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. These services include job training and skill-building.

Still have questions?

See our handouts on *Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)* and *Denials of Services* for more information.