

Frequently Asked Questions: Private / Home School Students

Through the years, the method in which private schools, parents of private school students, and parents of homebound students access special programs (special education, dyslexia, Section 504) has changed. So, to help everyone out, I created a Frequently Asked Questions about Private and Home School Students

1. Do we provide dyslexia services under Section 504 for students enrolled in a private school or home school in our district?

No, we are not required to provide services under Section 504 for private/home school students. The private school the child attends makes those recommendations and provides those services. We provide services for students identified as having a disability, in need of specialized instruction, and therefore, identified as meeting the criteria for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

2. Do we do assessments for students we suspect as having a disability condition who are enrolled in private or home school? What if the child does not live in our district but attends a private school in our district?

Yes, DISD does provide Child Find services for any student age 3 years to 21 years who is suspected of having a disability unless they have graduated from school. Students age 5-21 who are enrolled in a private or home school in our district are the responsibility of DISD for child find. We assist with the problem solving team and assessment if necessary. We would also provide limited services if the child was determined eligible. Students age 3-4 would be evaluated by the district where they live.

3. How do we get a 3, 4, or 5 year old student screened? We think something is wrong with the child, or the doctor has referred us to the school for a screening.

The district conducts child-find screenings for all students who are not currently enrolled in our school who are suspected of having a disability between the ages 3-5. The child find screening team conducts the screenings at 1-2 times per month depending on need. The team consists of multiple Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSP) and a Speech Pathologist. The screenings are held at Bay Colony Elementary, but are **by appointment only**. Kathy Linkey sets up the screening appointments. Elisabeth Rivera is lead on this team. We do have a bilingual LSSP that can attend as needed, as well as an Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist as needed. Call Kathy Linkey to set-up child find screening 281-229-6087

4. What do we do if we have a child who is struggling academically who is enrolled in a private or home school in our district who is older than 5 years?

DISD is responsible for Child Find for all students age 5-21 who have not yet graduated who are enrolled in a private school in our district or a home school in a home in our district. The parent or school should contact Maggie Burk to set up a consultation. Mrs. Burk will assign a team leader to talk to the parent, discuss concerns, and assist the private school with the problem solving team process. Mrs. Burk can be reached at 281-229-6087.

5. Does the private / home school have to complete the problem solving team process?

Yes, all students must go through the Problem Solving Process, as this process is a method designed to gather the data and background components that are necessary for a thorough evaluation. TEA has noted that intervention is a requirement prior to referral for testing. An Assessment Team

member will assist the private / home school in conducting a PST. The parent and staff of the school are responsible for completing the paperwork and observations. There are several documents that must be completed. DISD had termed them the Rainbow Packet. It consists of sociological information, health information, teacher information, observations by someone other than the classroom teacher, review of existing records, and present level of academic achievement and functional performance. The assessment staff member will assist the school/parent with understanding how to complete the forms, but the private / home school is responsible for ensuring that it is completed.

6. We have a student who is already identified and receiving special education. What happens now?

Each year, as long as the student attends a private / home school within DISD zone, DISD conducts an Individual Service Plan (ISP) Meeting. At that meeting, the needs of the child, services that will be provided, and how those services will be provided will all be discussed and a plan for the next year is developed. It is required by law that DISD conduct these meetings at least once an annual year. A parent or a teacher from the private school can request another meeting if there are concerns that need to be addressed by an ISP.

7. We have a student who is already identified and receiving special education. The child just enrolled in private school. What do we do?

Contact the DISD school the child would attend if they were enrolled in the public school. The ARD Committee Facilitator will schedule a transfer ARD or Individual Service Plan meeting.

8. We have a student who is already identified as being in need of special education. What services can they receive?

We are required to provide services to students identified in need of special education to any student attending a private / home school in our district. However, they are not entitled to the same services they would receive if they attended the public school. The Individual Service Plan (similar to an ARD) determines the services. It is based on the proportionate share of the funding they receive and is typically limited. It is typically limited to speech therapy, consultation from a special education teacher, behavior coaches, and/ or related service providers, an assistive technology device, and/or training.

9. We have a student who is already identified and receiving special education. The private or home school is requesting a consultation, services, or device. What do we do?

The private or home school should contact Maggie Burk. DISD has a form for private and home school parents to request services, consultation, or device. The request must meet IDEA requirements and must be necessary to meet the child's IEPs.

10. We have a parent requesting assistance from special programs, and the child is not currently receiving special education services. The parent is requesting dyslexia or 504 services.

Have the parent contact Maggie Burk. Although we do not provide services to students not identified as requiring special education services, Maggie will contact them to discuss the request and concerns. The administrator for the campus the child would attend if enrolled in public school will be notified, along with the LSSP, ARD CF, and other staff as necessary.

11. We have a student who is not receiving special education services, but is receiving dyslexia or Section 504 services. The parent has notified us that the child will be attending public school and wants to have a meeting to plan the services.

You can have the parent contact Maggie Burk or the staff can meet with the parent and discuss the services the child would be receiving upon enrollment to public school. An assessment staff member must be present to review the testing that was previously completed to ensure that it meets DISD criteria.

12. How do private and home schools find out about the services available through the public schools?

Each year, we conduct meetings for the private schools each year to discuss how they would like to use the money, and even send out surveys. Laurie Goforth Rodriguez and Maggie Burk have scheduled meeting with all the private schools in our district that did not attend the meeting or return the survey. We will be explaining the process to the private schools when we meet with them during the month of October and November. Those that attended the meeting are already aware of the process.