



Eligibility for Special Education and Related Services for Homeschooled Students in Maryland

Federal law governs how special education and related services are provided to each student with a disability who is enrolled in a local educational agency (LEA). The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** requires an LEA to:

- Identify, locate and evaluate students who may be eligible for special education and related services (a process known as “child find”)

How do I know if my child needs services?

If a homeschooling parent or guardian suspects their child may be eligible for special education and related services, the parent or guardian may request a free evaluation through their LEA.

How do I request services?

A request for a special education evaluation must be made in writing. Here is a sample letter you may use to request an evaluation: **[KennedyKrieger.org/EvalLetter](https://www.KennedyKrieger.org/EvalLetter)**

The letter should include a specific statement of concerns. Framing concerns in educational language that school administrators understand will help facilitate an initial meeting.

- **Example:** The student fails to read at grade level and to retain and apply math concepts.
- **Example:** The student is unable to write legibly and coherently despite regular instruction.
- **Example:** The student has difficulties with attention and organizational skills that prevent successful completion of assignments and tests.

Where do I request services?

The written request may be sent to the student’s designated “home” school—the school a student would attend if they were enrolled in their LEA. The letter should be addressed to the school’s principal.



Is it likely that my child will receive services if my child is homeschooled?

It depends, but it is unlikely.

While IDEA and its implementing regulations require that LEAs make special education and related services available to students enrolled in public and private schools, no mention is made about such services for homeschooled students.

No direct federal or state laws require Maryland public schools to provide special education and related services to homeschooled students (other than child find evaluations). At the same time, no law prohibits schools from offering such services, either.

Under these circumstances, a homeschooled student is unlikely to receive special education and related services. If a homeschooled student does receive such services, it is unlikely they will receive the same services they would receive if enrolled in a public school.

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Additional Resources

To contact your LEA to see if special education and related services are offered to homeschooled students, scan the QR code or visit:



myschoolchoice.com/opportunities/how-to-continue-your-iep-even-if-you-start-homeschooling

For questions about homeschooling and special education and related services, contact your LEA's homeschooling coordinator by scanning the QR code or visiting:



marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DSFSS/SSSP/HomeInstruct/HomeSchoolCoordinators_A.pdf

CONTACT US

Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute

For more information, please visit **KennedyKrieger.org/ProjectHEAL** or contact us at **443-923-4414**.

Location

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