



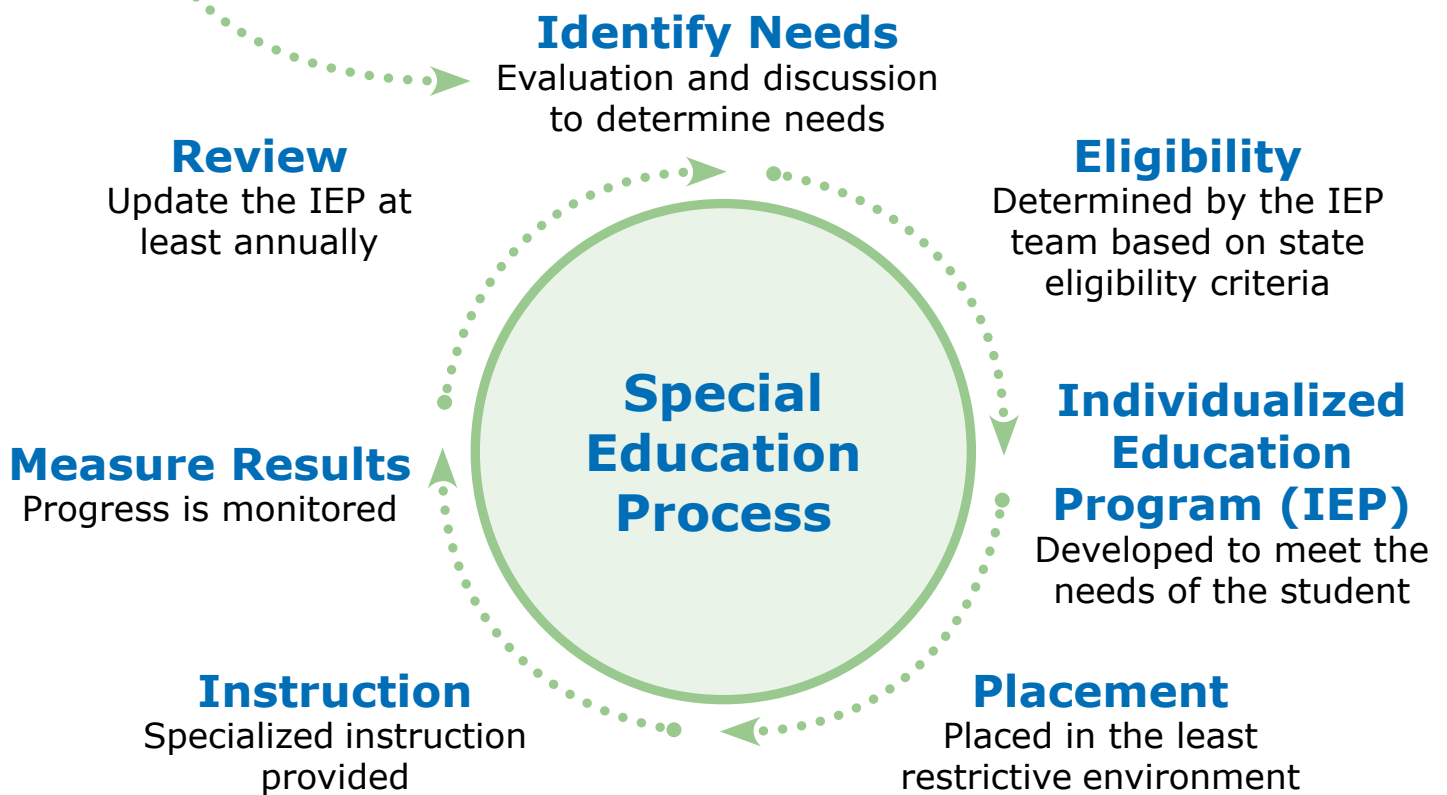
## Special Education Process

Special education is provided to eligible children in Michigan from birth to age 26. A school team helps identify the needs of children and determines what kind of supports they need to make progress in their education.

### The process begins with a request for evaluation.

You or someone at the school who is concerned can ask the school to evaluate your child for special education. The school can only do an evaluation or provide services if you give consent as the parent.

[Learn more about evaluations from the Michigan Alliance for Families.](#)



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# The Special Education Process Explained

Read the [10 Basic Steps in Special Education](#) from the Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR).

## Identify Needs

After a request for evaluation, the school conducts an evaluation or provides notice that it will not conduct an evaluation and explains the reasons why. The multidisciplinary evaluation team (MET) reviews the results and other available information and helps explain what needs your child has based on the evaluation.

## Determine Eligibility

A school support team called the individualized education program (IEP) team determines if your child is eligible for special education services based on your child's needs and state eligibility criteria. Your input is considered, as you are a member of the IEP team.

## Develop the Individualized Education Program (IEP)

The IEP is a document that is developed by you and the school support team (the IEP team). The IEP document states the goals set for your child and states the services the school district will provide. Learn more about IEPs from the [Michigan Alliance for Families](#) and the [U.S. Department of Education](#).

## Placement in an Educational Setting

Your child is placed in the least restrictive environment (LRE). This means your child will participate in a general education setting with peers without disabilities as much as possible.

## Provide Specialized Instruction

Your child will receive instruction that best helps him or her make progress toward educational goals, based on the identified needs.

## Measure Results

The school keeps track of how your child is doing in meeting his or her educational goals. Results are reviewed at your child's annual IEP.

## Review the IEP and Make Changes as Needed

The IEP team, including you, meets at least once per year to review the IEP. Your child's progress and needs are examined as your child continues to grow, and the team makes appropriate updates to the IEP. Parents can also request an IEP at any time. It is best to put this request in writing.

## Resources



[Michigan Alliance for Families:  
Individualized Education Program](#)

[Michigan Alliance for Families: Evaluation](#)

- [Center for Parent Information and Resources \(CPIR\): 10 Basic Steps in Special Education](#)
- [Michigan Department of Education: Special Education Law and Policies](#)
- [Michigan Department of Education: Guidance for Timeline for Initial Evaluations](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education: A Guide to the Individualized Education Program](#)