

Private/Parochial Schools Parent Information
Springfield Public School District 186 Special Education Services

When a child who is eligible for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) attends a public school, they are eligible to receive a full range of special education and related services. However, when a child who attends a non-public private/parochial school requires special education services, the public school district boundary in which the private school is located is responsible for providing services. Due to limitations in appropriated funding, special education services provided by the public school district are limited when a child who has an IEP attends a non-public private/parochial school; the state and federal governments view this as a parents' right to deny FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) for their child.

If a child has an active IEP, we encourage parents to share a copy of the child's current IEP with the private/parochial school administrator, discuss the child's educational needs and supports that the private parochial school may be able to provide. Parents should also discuss what special education services may be provided by the public school district.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the School Records Act protect the confidentiality of student information. Schools, whether private/parochial or public, must have legal consent to share IEP and/or assessment documents regarding specific student information. **Therefore, it is the responsibility of the parent** to inform both public and private/parochial schools of any eligible need for special education services, school moves, address and/or telephone number changes or separate parent addresses. Contact Springfield Public Schools District 186 Student Support Services (217-525-3060) for special education services or information changes.

If a parent and/or teacher have an educational concern regarding a private/parochial student, the **Child Find** process is available to consider the possible need of special education services to be identified, located, and evaluated. This is a referral process that is available to all non-public private/parochial students and can only be initiated by the private/parochial parent. The purpose of this type of meeting is to review evidence presented in order to problem solve how to better assist the student in the area(s) of concern. There is a private/parochial problem solving team available through Springfield Public School District's Student Support Services department to address language, academic and/or behavioral concerns. **Parents must contact the district's Private/Parochial Case Manager, Julie Jurgens (525-3060) to initiate this process.** Once the process is initiated and a date has been set to meet and review concerns, the private/parochial school is responsible for providing evidence-based interventions in the area of concern that have been attempted over a series of 8-9 weeks, and the progress monitoring data from those interventions as well as completing a packet of academic and behavioral information on the student referred. The district private/parochial problem solving team reviews cases each week at Student Support Services, located on the 3rd floor at Graham School. If, after a review of the interventions and the team recommends further assessments to determine if a suspected disability exists, parents will be asked to sign consent for assessments. If consent for assessments is obtained, the team has 60 school days from the date of parent consent to complete the assessments.

If a parent and/or teacher have concerns only about articulation (the way sounds are produced when the child speaks), the parent must contact Julie Jurgens, Private/Parochial Case Manager for Springfield Public Schools, to initiate an articulation assessment. Students with only articulation concerns do not need to go through the private/parochial problem solving process.

IEP AND ISP – What Are They?

If a student has a current Individualized Education Program (IEP) from a public school district, or is found at any time to be eligible for special education services, the student can receive a limited amount of special education services provided by Springfield Public School District 186. The IEP is converted to an Individualized Service Plan (ISP) as stated in state and federal guidelines. This document mirrors the IEP with Present Levels of Performance, Goals and Objectives, Accommodations and Modifications, and minutes of services adjusted to reflect available private/parochial services.

Currently 2019-2020 services provided by District 186 are limited to:

- **Speech/Language services-** articulation and language therapy - Pre-K – 5th grade
- **Resource services-** academic/behavioral supports – 6th – 8th grade only

NO Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Work services, Psychological services, Vision or Hearing Impaired services, equipment or assistive technology are available at this time. Extended school year special education services are also not available.

Each school year the services are reviewed by Springfield Public Schools' Director of Student Support Services and Private/Parochial School Administrators based on the calculated appropriated proportionate shared funding and private/parochial student numbers.

The maximum number of total/combined minutes available per eligible child for 2019-2020 school year is 120 minutes per week

All services are provided on-site at each private/parochial school. Due to limited appropriated funding and large number of students needing services in the private/parochial schools, the service providers operate on a reduced calendar. **Services are provided from October 1st through March 31st each school year.**

- **Service providers follow District 186's school calendar.**
- **Service providers are not required to make up days of service/therapy when a student is absent.**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For additional clarification on your parent rights as a private/parochial parent, please refer to:

Illinois State Board of Education website:

www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/parent_rights.htm

(See Chapter 12 - Private Schools)

Springfield Public Schools' Student Support Services website:

www.sps186.org/studentsupport/

Julie Jurgens - Private/Parochial Case Manager

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(217) 525-3060