FREE GUIDE

District of Columbia special education deadlines

Sources last checked between Nov 16, 2026 and Nov 20, 2026
State rules as of November 20, 2026

RULE	FIRST LINE OF THE RULE	SOURCE
EVALUATIONS		
Responding to an evaluation request	The school must make reasonable efforts to obtain your consent within thirty days after an evaluation referral and must document an oral referral within three business days.	D.C. Code § 38-2561.02(a)(2)(A), (3)
Completing an initial evaluation	Under federal law, the school generally must finish your child's initial evaluation within 60 calendar days after it receives your consent, unless your state sets its own timeline.	34 CFR 300.301(c)–(e); 300.309(c); 300.306(a)(1)
FIRST IEP MEETING		
The initial IEP after eligibility	In the District of Columbia, your child's first IEP must be developed within 30 calendar days after your child is found eligible for special education and related services.	5-A DCMR § 3017.1
SCHOOL RECORDS		
Timing of access to education records	You have the right to review your child's education records that the school keeps or uses under IDEA.	34 CFR 99.10(b); 34 CFR 300.613(a)
Copies of records, fees and access barriers	District of Columbia: Parents may inspect, review, and copy the child's special-education records at no cost.	5-A DCMR § 3030.1
IEP REVIEWS AND REEVALUATIONS		
Regular IDEA reevaluation	Your child must be reevaluated at least once every three years, unless you and the school agree it isn't needed.	34 CFR 300.303(a), (b)
Reviewing the IEP at least annually	In the District of Columbia, your child's IEP must be reviewed at least once every 12 months, and sooner when your child's needs or progress call for it.	5-A DCMR §§ 3018.1–3018.2
TRANSITION PLANNING		
When transition goals and services begin	In the District of Columbia, the first IEP in effect after your child turns 14 must include transition assessments, goals for life after high school, and transition services.	D.C. Code § 38-2614(a)(1); 5-A DCMR § 3026.1
RIGHTS AT ADULTHOOD		
Advance notice about the transfer of IDEA rights	In the District of Columbia, two steps must happen by the time your child turns 17.	5-A DCMR Chapter 30 §§ 3026.9, 3035.1, 3037.1
The state's age of majority and IDEA rights	In the District of Columbia, special education rights under IDEA transfer from you to your child at age 18.	5-A DCMR §§ 3035.1, 3036.1 (citing D.C. Official Code § 46-101)
PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION		
Preschool special education by age three	District of Columbia: For an eligible child moving from IDEA Part C to Part B, the IEP must be developed by the third birthday.	5-A DCMR § 3001.11
Moving from early intervention to preschool	District of Columbia: Planning for the move from early intervention to preschool services starts before age 3.	OSSE transition from early intervention to special education resources; 34 C.F.R. § 300.124
OTHER RULES		
When a manifestation determination must occur	District of Columbia: For an IDEA disciplinary change of placement, a manifestation determination is required within 10 school days of the decision to change placement.	34 C.F.R. § 300.530(e)
Section 504 protections in school discipline	District of Columbia: Section 504 requires a reevaluation before a significant disciplinary change in placement.	34 C.F.R. § 104.35(a); U.S. Department of Education, Section 504 FAPE FAQ 29 (and FAQs 15–16)
The school's response to an IEE request	The school must pay for an independent evaluation or request a hearing without unnecessary delay; it may apply the District's payment limits unless special circumstances justify higher costs.	5-A DCMR §§ 3038.1–3038.2, 3038.6
An IEP in place for the start of school	District of Columbia: An IEP must remain in effect throughout the calendar year, including summer, for each enrolled child who is eligible for special education.	5-A DCMR § 3020.1; 34 C.F.R. § 300.323(a)
Give written notice before moving to a private school	If you plan to move your child to a private school and ask the district to pay, give the district written notice at least 10 business days before your child leaves the public school.	34 CFR 300.148(d)–(e); 300.11(b)
IEP services after a move within the state	District of Columbia: The new public agency must decide whether to adopt the existing IEP within 30 calendar days of enrollment.	5-A DCMR §§ 3020.2–3020.10

RULE	FIRST LINE OF THE RULE	SOURCE
IEP services after a move from another state	District of Columbia: When a child with an existing IEP transfers into a DC school from another state, the new school must provide comparable services in consultation with you.	5-A DCMR § 3020

Planning aid only. Not legal advice. Confirm the date with the governing source.

Full answers and source links: https://endeavy.com/special-education-deadlines/district-of-columbia