

# Education in NJ

*This is a broad overview and should not be relied upon for any legal conclusions.*

## AT-A-GLANCE

### Commonly Used Acronyms

<b>AHSA</b>	Alternative High School Assessment (formerly known as the Special Review Assessment or SRA)
<b>APA</b>	Alternate Proficiency Assessment
<b>CCCS</b>	Core Curriculum Content Standards
<b>CSC</b>	Code of Student Conduct
<b>CST</b>	Child Study Team
<b>CTE</b>	Career and Technical Education
<b>ELL</b>	English Language Learners
<b>ELO</b>	Extended Learning Opportunity
<b>ESY</b>	Extended School Year (summer school for students with disabilities)
<b>EVVRS</b>	Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System
<b>FAPE</b>	Free, Appropriate Public Education
<b>HIB</b>	Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
<b>HSPA</b>	High School Proficiency Assessment
<b>IEP</b>	Individualized Education Program
<b>I&amp;RS</b>	Intervention and Referral Services
<b>LEA</b>	Local Education Agency
<b>LRE</b>	Least Restrictive Environment
<b>NJ ASK</b>	New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge
<b>NJ SMART</b>	N.J. Standards Measurement and Resource for Teaching
<b>SBYS</b>	School-Based Youth Services

### *Did You Know?*

There is a New Jersey Department of Education office in each of the 21 counties supporting over 600 districts, more than 90 charter schools and numerous nonpublic schools.

If you have a question or need information, **first reach out to the appropriate district.**

If you have reached out to a district and still require more information, please contact the county office of education.

For more information:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/counties/>

### Student Enrollment

- A CP&P caseworker and/or a resource parent, at the request of the caseworker, can enroll a child living in foster care into school.
- School aged children should be registered immediately when placed out of the home.
- Districts must accept a child without the required documentation for a reasonable period of time.

#### *Required Documents to Enroll a Child*

Copies of the following documents must be provided to the school in order to enroll or register a child:

1. Resource Parent ID Letter  
(or Agency Placement Letter)
2. Resource Parent Proof of Address
3. Certified copy of a child's birth certificate\* (or other proof of identity)  
w/in 30 days of enrollment
4. Immunization Records

Other important documentation to provide if possible:

- Student records, including special education documents
- Student discipline records



## Educational Stability

In October 7, 2008, the federal government signed into law the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351).

This act requires all states to arrange for children and youth in foster care to remain in their

### *“school of origin”*

to ensure educational stability unless it is determined to be in a child's best interest to go to the new district where the Resource Family Home is located.

For more information:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/edservices/stability/>

# Guidance on Education for Students with Disabilities

*This is a broad overview of special education and should not be relied upon for any legal conclusions.*

## EARLY INTERVENTION PLAN

- Children from birth to age three are eligible for Early Intervention services if they have a developmental delay or a physical or mental disability that is likely to result in a developmental delay.
- An EIP or IFSP is developed to set forth the plan and services for children and their parents eligible for early intervention services.
- Services for children from birth to age three with these delays are provided through the New Jersey Department of Health and numerous local contracting agencies, not through the NJDOE or local school districts.



## INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

### *NJAC 6A:14-1.1(d)*

Each district board of education is responsible for providing a system of free, appropriate special education and related services to students with disabilities age three through 21.

### *NJAC 6A:14-1.3*

"Individualized education program" (IEP) means a written plan which sets forth present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, measurable annual goal and short-term objectives or benchmarks and describes an integrated, sequential program of individually designed instructional activities and related services necessary to achieve the stated goals and objectives. This plan shall establish the rationale for the student's educational placement, serve as the basis for program implementation and comply with the mandates set forth in this chapter.

## *What is Section 504?*

- Section 504 is a federal law that was established to help students in school have access to general education services through an accommodation and supports when needed.
- The regulatory authority for this law is 34 CFR 104, Subparts A, C and D of the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- Accommodations are required for students with a disabling condition, in accordance with eligibility criteria under the Act.
- A group of certified persons, including those knowledgeable about the student, determine the meaning of the evaluation data collected and the placement options.
- The written plan is called a 504 Accommodation plan.
- A review and follow-up is required, timeline to be determined by district policy adopted by the board of education.
- There are no forms that are regulated to use for 504 plans.

For more information: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/504>

## *Who Can Act as a Parent in Education Related Decisions?*

Per N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3

"Parent" means the natural or adoptive parent, the legal guardian, foster parent when willing to so serve, a surrogate parent who has been appointed according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.2(a) through (i), a person acting in the place of a parent (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the student lives or a person legally responsible for the student's welfare). Unless parental rights have been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction, the parent retains all rights under this chapter. For the purposes of this chapter, the term "parent" shall include the adult student as defined above.

## *Child Study Team Defined*

Per NJAC 6A:14-3.1(b)

- The child study team is the school district's professional staff responsible for providing services to children with disabilities.
- Child study teams include a school psychologist, a learning disabilities teacher consultant and a school social worker.
  - For children with a speech-language disability, the school district's speech-language specialist additionally acts as a member of the child study team.
- All child study team members are employees of a district board of education, are committed to the local school district and available to provide all needed services during the hours students are in attendance.
- Each member of the child study team performs only those functions that are within the scope of their professional license (where applicable) and certification issued by the New Jersey Department of Education.