



Britton Deerfield Schools Special Education Programming Information 2025-26

In Michigan, special education refers to a range of services designed to meet the unique educational needs of students with disabilities, ensuring they receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). These services are tailored to the individual needs of each child and may include specially designed instruction, related services, and supports to help students succeed in school. Michigan law mandates that special education be provided to eligible students from birth through age 26.

Key aspects of special education in Michigan:

- **Eligibility:**
A student must be evaluated and found eligible for special education services based on one of the 14 disability categories outlined in Michigan law.
- **Individualized Education Program (IEP):**
If a student is found eligible, an IEP is developed to outline the specific educational goals, services, and support tailored to their individual needs.
- **Related Services:**
These are additional services that may be required to help a student benefit from special education, such as transportation, speech therapy, or occupational therapy.
- **Least Restrictive Environment:**
Students with disabilities are entitled to be educated in the least restrictive environment, meaning they should be included with their nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.
- **Funding:**
Special education is funded through a combination of federal, state, and local revenue.
- **State Agency:**
The [Michigan Department of Education \(MDE\) Office of Special Education \(OSE\)](#) is responsible for overseeing and administering special education programs and services in the state.

All public schools in Lenawee County determine the existence of a Specific Learning Disability using a Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses. For a copy of the Standards and Procedures for identification of students with suspected specific learning disabilities visit the LISD Compliance page at:
<https://www.lisd.us/o/lisd/page/compliance-and-family-resources>.

Evaluation & Eligibility

Before a Request

[MDE Multi-Tiered Systems of Support](#)

[MDE School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Implementation Guide](#)

Making a Request

School age children: A parent may request a special education evaluation in writing by contacting the public school in which the child is enrolled or the public school district where the child resides.

Children ages 0-3: If you have developmental concerns about your infant or toddler less than three years of age, please contact one of the following:

- [Early On Lenawee](#)
- [Early On Michigan](#)

What do I need to know about Special Education?

The following document may be helpful. It outlines the basic special education process for all students, from initial evaluation and eligibility to creating an IEP and reevaluation:

[NICHCY The Basic Special Education Process under IDEA 2004.](#)

There are also a multitude of additional resources online at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xEx3tWF1bPeXZQuzh15EktYHkdJY4Gf12Zu5Q53aOel/edit?tab=t.0>

Britton Deerfield Families can call the Business Office for additional information related to programs and services. With help at anytime, please call Superintendent Stacy Johnson at (517) 451-4581 ext. 101.