



Wyoming's Preschoolers with Disabilities

Understanding Parent Choices

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is dedicated to ensuring all children with disabilities, including preschoolers, receive a quality education. Here you will find an explanation concerning your rights and choices when it comes to your child's early education.



What is a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)?

Federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), guarantees that children with disabilities ages 3-21 receive a free, appropriate education designed to meet their unique needs. This includes preschool!

Where will My Child Receive Services?

Once enrolled in a CDC or district pre-school program, services should be provided in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), meaning your child's learning environment should include being around non-disabled children/students to the maximum extent appropriate.

Who Provides Preschool Services?



Child Development Centers (CDCs):

CDCs are contracted partners with the Wyoming Department of Health's Behavioral Health Division (BHD). Parents may also choose to enroll their child in CDCs through age 5.



Public School Districts/Charter Schools:

Some local school districts and charter schools offer preschool programs. If your child meets the age requirements you may choose to apply for enrollment. Students cannot be turned away due to limitations related to a disability if they meet all other application criteria.



Other Settings:

Students in preschool settings such as Head Start or private preschools may be eligible to receive special education services through the CDC.

Who is Responsible for Providing Services?

The agency where your child is enrolled (either the school district or the CDC) is responsible for providing FAPE.

Your Preschool Options:

As a parent, you have the right to choose the best fit for your child:



Regional Developmental Preschools:

These specialized programs focus on early childhood development and may offer unique therapeutic approaches.



Public School District Preschool Programs:

These programs can help your child transition smoothly to kindergarten and integrate them into the local school system.

What to Consider When Choosing a Program:



Your Child's Needs:

What specific support does your child need?



Program Approach:

What are the program's educational philosophies and teaching methods?



Program Quality:

Look into teacher qualifications, class sizes, services provided, and curriculum.



Your Family's Preferences:

Consider location, program hours, and the overall environment.



Communication:

How well does the program communicate with families?

We're Here to Help!

The WDE is committed to supporting families and educators. We offer resources and training to help everyone understand the requirements of IDEA.

Contact Us:

Division of Special Education Programs Wyoming
Department of Education



Procedural Safeguards:

The Notice of Procedural Safeguards explains rights available to a parent or child under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

