

What does a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) mean?

FAPE means special education and related services that:

- Are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction and without charge
- Meet State standards
- Include appropriate preschool, elementary school or secondary school education
- Are provided in conformity with the IEP

IDEA §300.17

Who is entitled to FAPE?

A FAPE must be made available to all children residing in Missouri between the ages of 3 and 21, inclusive, including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school.

IDEA §300.101(a)

FAPE for Children Beginning at Age 3:

Each State must ensure that the obligation to provide FAPE to eligible children begins, and an IEP is in place no later than the child's 3rd birthday. If a child's birthday occurs during the summer, the child's IEP Team shall determine the date when services under an IEP will begin.

IDEA §300.101(b)

Children Advancing from Grade to Grade:

Each state must ensure that FAPE is available to any individual child with a disability who needs special education and related services, even though the child has not failed or been retained in a course or grade, and is advancing from grade to grade.

IDEA §300.101(c)

Exceptions to FAPE:

The obligation to make FAPE available to all children with disabilities does not apply with respect to the following:

- Children with disabilities who have graduated from high school with a regular high school diploma (the term 'regular high school diploma' does not include an alternative degree that is not fully aligned with State academic standards, such as a certificate or a general educational developmental credentials (GED)

IDEA §300.102

Children in Residential Placements:

If a placement in a public or private residential program is necessary to provide special education and related services to a child with a disability, the program, including non-medical care and room and board, must be at 'no cost' to the parents of the child.

IDEA §300.104

Students 18-22 Who Are Incarcerated in an Adult Correctional Facility:

In Missouri, anyone (whether previously identified or not) under the age of 21 receives a WRAT-IV (reading, spelling, and math screening) and a CELF-IV (language screening). Their general health as well as vision and hearing are checked as well. Once this data is collected a team reviews that material. Typically students who score lower than a 6th grade level in reading, math or spelling are evaluated further. Once this material is obtained the team reconvenes and a staffing is held.

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