

Referral Procedures

Referral procedures for early childhood special education are very similar to those for students ages 6 to 22. Therefore, the full referral procedures are available in the “Special Education Handbook.”

ECSE Specific Referral Requirements

Early Intervention Referrals

Children referred through the EI process will follow the referral procedures described in the Special Education Handbook, but the timeline for the evaluation is NOT school days from the date of consent. Instead, a child referred through the EI process must have an evaluation completed, and if eligible, an IEP in place on the child’s third birthday.

Referrals from Preschool Screenings

Children referred for an evaluation following a preschool screening will follow the same referral process as students age 6-22. Refer to the Special Education Handbook for these procedures.

Request for Students Enrolled in Preschool for All

If a child is enrolled in an at-risk (Preschool for All) classroom and the teacher has speech/language or developmental concerns, she should discuss those concerns with the appropriate early childhood team members assigned to her room. After appropriate screening, problem solving, and/or in class interventions, the team may determine that a special education referral is appropriate. The teacher should document interventions and strategies used the student and document progress/lack of progress made due to these interventions. The teacher should continue to communicate with the family and express her concerns while assisting the ECSE team in scheduling a domain meeting with the parents to begin the referral.