

## Oconee County Schools Special Education Department

## Referrals for Private and Home School Children

If a child does not live in Oconee County but attends a private school in Oconee County, the county will evaluate the child and the Eligibility Team will determine eligibility. It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the eligibility status to the system of residence. The system of residence is responsible for offering services, not Oconee County. If the student attending a private school in Oconee County is found eligible for speech and if there is space available, then a Service Plan can be developed for Oconee County speech services only. If a parent or the private school staff suspects a child of having a disability, the system will conduct an evaluation in a timely manner. The child must pass hearing and vision screening. Parents may obtain hearing/vision screening from the child's physician or the health department. Parent will also be asked to provide information on the Child Find Packet. Parents and private schools are asked to provide documentation of interventions tried prior to referral. The feedback will help the evaluator identify the student's deficits in the area(s) of suspected disability. This will also help the staff determine if a speech therapist will be involved in the initial steps of the evaluation process. A speech therapist will be notified if a speech evaluation is needed. Once a request for evaluation is received, the referral packet is mailed to the parent. When all items of the packet are returned, including interventions attempted and Consent for Evaluation is signed, the referral is logged for the psychologist and/or speech and language pathologist. Oconee County Schools will evaluate private school/home school students within the Georgia Department of Education 60 day timeline requirement. Once testing is complete, the parents will be notified by the evaluating psychologist in order to set up a eligibility meeting. If the student is eligible for special education services, the IEP team will develop an IEP (if the student is a resident of Oconee County) and offer those services if the parent enrolls the student into a Oconee County school. If the parent chooses to enroll the child, the IEP team will project the implementation date of the IEP according to the child's enrollment in an Oconee County school. If the parent chooses to continue the student's placement in a private school, documentation of their decision will be reflected on the eligibility report. The student evaluation folder will be filed at the Special Services Office. For students who are only found eligible for speech and the parent chooses not to enroll, their decision will be reflected on the eligibility report. The speech therapist may be able to offer the parent the option of a Service Plan depending on the availability for these services based on Oconee County Schools proportionate share. If space is available, then a Service Plan will be written to provide speech services. Special Education transportation will NOT be provided.

For further questions please contact the Special Education Department at 706-769-5130 ex 1214.



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