

Welcome, Washington Military Families: We're glad you landed here!

General Education Information:

- ✓ Our State Education Agency is the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction - k12.wa.us.
- ✓ Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are organized as 295 Districts.
- ✓ Nine [Educational Service Districts](#) partner with OSPI.
- ✓ Charter schools have the same responsibilities as all public and non-public entities when serving students with disabilities.
- ✓ The state has multiple [Pathways to Graduation](#) and requires a High School and Beyond Plan for all students.

Special Education Information

- ✓ State law related to the provision of special education is part of the Washington Administrative Code, [WAC Chapter 392-172A](#).
- ✓ Special Education process and parent rights and responsibilities are described in a handbook available for download on OSPI's website: [Procedural Safeguards](#).
- ✓ A child's right to a timely evaluation and the school district's responsibility to seek out and serve students with disabilities is described on OSPI's website as an aspect of [Child Find](#).



PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION

(PTI) helps Washington family advocates support their children. PTI does this by providing information, training, resources, and technical assistance to help parents/caregivers understand their rights and responsibilities, navigate school, and connect with community resources.

Have questions? Need Support?

Fill out a Help Request Form at

wapave.org/get-help

Call 1-800-572-7368, ext. 115.

English or Spanish

Some questions you can ask PTI...

- How can I be sure my child receives comparable services?
- What should I do if I think my child might need additional services?
- How does the evaluation or re-evaluation process work?
- What are my rights if my child is being disciplined or struggling with behavior?
- What do I need to know about the roles and responsibilities at the state and local level?
- What are my options if I'm not satisfied with my child's IEP or Section 504 Plan or if I don't think the school is following it?
- What state agencies are responsible for managing parent complaints?
- How can I make sure that my high-school child stays on track for graduation?
- I've heard, "We don't do that in Washington." Is this true?"



PAVE

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Common Questions/Answers and Linkages for further information in Washington State

- **Where can parents get information about services for infants, Birth-3?** The state's Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) administers a program called [Early Services for Infants and Toddlers](#) (ESIT): Email: ESIT@dcyf.wa.gov, Phone: 360-725-3500
- **What is the agency that administers Medicaid?** Medicaid is called Apple Health. Applications are managed through the [Health Care Authority \(HCA\)](#), which oversees various Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to provide health plan options. For more information, visit: hca.wa.gov or call 1-800-562-3022.
- **Does WA state offer Early Learning programs?** Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program ([ECEAP](#)) is Washington's program for 3- and 4-year-old children from low-income families. DCYF provides details about [ECEAP and federally funded Head Start programs](#). Children are eligible for ECEAP and Head Start based on their age and family income.
- **What is your state's timeline for an initial evaluation for special education services?** A district has 25 school days to respond to a request for special education evaluation. After consent is signed, the district has 35 school days to complete the evaluation. The state requires the district to implement an IEP within 30 calendar days after eligibility is determined. PAVE provides an article on our website: [Evaluations Part 1](#).
- **What is your state's policy on re-evaluations?** A parent can request an evaluation any time there are concerns about whether services match the student's present levels of performance and support needs. PTI provides a [sample letter](#) for requesting evaluation.
- **Does your state have unique names for IEP eligibility categories?** PAVE's article, [Evaluations Part 1](#), includes more detail about the 14 qualifying categories of disability. Note that Developmental Delay is a category for children Birth through age 9. One example of a category with a unique name in Washington is *Emotional/Behavior Disability*, which in federal law is referred to as *Emotional Disturbance*.
- **Does your state have a unique policy about dyslexia?** Washington passed a law in 2018 that requires schools to screen children in kindergarten through second grade for signs of dyslexia and to provide reading support for those who need it. The law takes full effect in 2021-22. [PAVE provides an article with links to current state information](#).
- **What are some of your state's options for dispute resolution?** OSPI provides information about how to request a (free) [mediation](#) or [facilitated IEP meeting](#) with a third-party facilitator. OSPI also offers options for filing a [Citizen Complaint](#) or requesting a [Due Process Hearing](#). OSPI's Due Process website page includes a link to a [legal assistance list](#).
- **Do principals or school heads in your state have sole authority?** Decisions about the provision of special education services are made by an IEP team, which includes parents and specific required staff members ([WAC 392-172A-03095](#)). A booklet describing the process of special education and parent/student rights is provided in multiple languages on OSPI's website: [Procedural Safeguards](#).
- **Does your state use a standard IEP form?** No. Many schools use a software program called IEP Online. Each district has a different link to access the specific forms used.
- **What are your state's graduation requirements?** In 2019, the Washington State Legislature provided students with [multiple pathways to graduation](#) by passing House Bill (HB) 1599. PAVE provides an on-demand webinar to help with [Life After High School Planning](#).
- **How does your state enforce compliance with Section 504 Plans?** OSPI provides a list of [Section 504/Civil Rights compliance officers](#) assigned to each school district.
- **Who is Washington's Military Compact Commissioner?** OSPI provides information related to the [Interstate Compact for Military Children](#). Included are updated contacts.