



NEW YORK STATE IEP GUIDE

Committee on Special Education (CSE) & Classification

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About This Guide

How to Use This Guide

- Terminology table: state-specific terms and what they mean in plain language
- Timeline differences: how this state's deadlines differ from federal IDEA
- State Education Agency: contact information for complaints and due process
- iepguide.org guidance: specific steps for using iepguide.org in this state
- Placement checklist: step-by-step placement timeline using iepguide.org

■ iepguide.org — School Placement Research Tool

Search by state, city, district, or school to compare SWD %, SDC program types, severity levels served, and specialist staff availability at iepguide.org

NEW YORK — STATE IEP GUIDE

How New York Differs from Federal IDEA

New York State has one of the most complex special education governance structures in the country. Instead of an IEP team, New York uses a Committee on Special Education (CSE). Instead of qualifying for an IEP category, students in New York are "classified." New York City, which serves over 200,000 students with IEPs, has its own Office of Special Education that operates somewhat differently from the rest of the state. Understanding the CSE process and New York's unique terminology is essential for effective advocacy.

State-Specific Terminology

These terms appear in official school documents, meeting invitations, and procedural notices in this state:

Term in This State	What It Means
CSE	Committee on Special Education — New York's equivalent of the IEP team
SCSE	Subcommittee on Special Education — a smaller committee that can handle certain decisions (program modifications, short-term objectives) without a full CSE meeting
Classification	New York's term for eligibility determination — a student is 'classified' rather than 'found eligible'
Declassification	When a student exits special education — the CSE 'declassifies' the student
SEIT	Special Education Itinerant Teacher — a New York-specific service for preschool children (age 3–5) who receive itinerant instruction in their home or community setting
RSA	Related Services Authorization — New York City's unique system for authorizing related services like speech and OT through independent providers
Impartial Hearing	New York's term for a due process hearing — presided over by an Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO)
SRO	State Review Officer — New York's unique second tier of appeals after an impartial hearing, before going to court
Pendency	New York's term for the stay-put provision — child remains in current placement during disputes



KEY TIMELINE DIFFERENCES IN NEW YORK

- Referral to CSE evaluation: within 60 SCHOOL DAYS of referral (not calendar days — this can be 3-4 months of school year time)
- CSE must have a meeting within 60 school days of the referral
- Initial IEP must be implemented within 60 school days of referral (if parent consents to placement)
- Annual review: CSE must meet at least once per year to review the IEP
- Reevaluation: at least every 3 years — parent or teacher can request more frequent reevaluation
- New York City specific: additional procedural steps and forms apply — NYC DOE has its own IEP system (IEP Direct)
- Transfer students: CSE must provide comparable services within 30 days if student has an IEP from another NY district

STATE EDUCATION AGENCY — NEW YORK

- New York State Education Department — Office of Special Education
- Website: nysed.gov/special-education
- Phone: (518) 473-2878
- Complaints: NYSED State Complaint — (518) 473-2878
- Impartial Hearings (NYC): NYC DOE Impartial Hearing Office — (212) 374-9935
- Parent Training & Information Center: Advocates for Children of New York — advocatesforchildren.org
- NYC Special Education: nyc.gov/site/specialed

HOW TO USE iepguide.org IN NEW YORK

- **Search iepguide.org by New York school district or city** to see which schools have appropriate CSE-recommended programs, SWD percentages, and on-site specialist staffing before your CSE meeting.
- **New York's 60 school-day timeline is longer than it sounds.** Use the weeks immediately after referral to research school and program options on iepguide.org so you are fully prepared when the CSE meeting finally occurs.
- **For New York City families:** use iepguide.org to compare schools across boroughs and districts — NYC has significant variation in SWD % and SDC program availability between schools even within the same community school district.
- **Before every annual CSE review:** search the current school and any schools the CSE may propose on iepguide.org to compare program type, SWD %, and on-site specialist staffing before agreeing to any classification change or placement change.
- If the CSE recommends a specialized school or District 75 program (NYC), use iepguide.org to compare the proposed placement against other available options in terms of program intensity and specialist staffing

PLACEMENT TIMELINE — USING iepguide.org IN NEW YORK

- **STEP 1** — After referral, immediately search your child's current school on iepguide.org to understand its SWD % and program type — this tells you if it is equipped to serve students at your child's expected classification level
- **STEP 2** — At the CSE meeting when classification and placement are discussed, search the proposed school on iepguide.org — does its SWD % and program type match your child's needs?
- **STEP 3** — Ask the CSE: is the proposed school's SLP, OT, and psychologist on-site full time or shared across multiple schools? Use iepguide.org data to ask informed follow-up questions
- **STEP 4** — If the CSE recommends a specialized program in a different school, compare the proposed school against your neighborhood school on iepguide.org — only agree if it offers meaningfully more appropriate services
- **STEP 5** — Invoke pendency (stay-put) if you disagree with any proposed placement change — your child remains in the current school while you explore alternatives using iepguide.org and consult with an advocate