



PENNSYLVANIA STATE IEP GUIDE

NOREP, Chapter 14, PaTTAN & Compensatory Education Rights

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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

PENNSYLVANIA — STATE IEP GUIDE

How Pennsylvania Differs from Federal IDEA

Pennsylvania has some of the most parent-friendly special education procedures in the country — including a unique form called the Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) that gives parents explicit power to accept or reject any placement decision. Pennsylvania's regulations (Chapter 14) add important protections beyond federal IDEA, and the state has a dedicated technical assistance network (PaTTAN) that provides free resources for both parents and schools. Gifted education is also covered under Pennsylvania special education law — an unusual feature not found in most states.

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
NOREP	Notice of Recommended Educational Placement — Pennsylvania's unique form that parents must sign to either accept or reject any proposed placement. You have 10 days to respond. If you do not respond, the district may proceed with the placement.
PTE	Permission to Evaluate — Pennsylvania's name for the consent to evaluate form
Evaluation Report (ER)	Pennsylvania's name for the comprehensive evaluation report — equivalent to the FIE in Texas or the Psychoeducational Report in other states
Chapter 14	Title 22 Pennsylvania Code Chapter 14 — Pennsylvania's special education regulations that must be followed alongside federal IDEA
Chapter 16	Pennsylvania's regulations governing gifted education — Pennsylvania is one of few states that identifies gifted students under the same special education framework as students with disabilities
PaTTAN	Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network — a free state resource offering training, support, and guidance for parents and educators
Compensatory Education	Additional services provided to compensate for services a student missed due to a district's failure to implement the IEP — Pennsylvania courts have strong case law supporting compensatory education claims
IEP Team	Same as federal — Pennsylvania uses federal terminology for the IEP team



KEY TIMELINE DIFFERENCES IN PENNSYLVANIA

- PTE (consent to evaluate) to Evaluation Report completion: 60 CALENDAR days from written consent
- Evaluation Report completion to IEP meeting: must occur within 30 calendar days of completing the Evaluation Report
- NOREP response window: parents have 10 calendar days to sign and return the NOREP accepting or rejecting placement — failure to respond allows the district to proceed
- Annual IEP review: within 12 months of last IEP date
- Reevaluation: at least every 3 years — PTE required before new assessments
- If you reject the NOREP: the district must maintain the current placement and cannot implement the proposed change — this triggers a dispute resolution process
- Transfer students: receiving district must adopt or revise the IEP within 10 school days if student transfers from another PA district



STATE EDUCATION AGENCY — PENNSYLVANIA

- Pennsylvania Department of Education — Bureau of Special Education
- Website: education.pa.gov/K-12/Special%20Education
- Phone: (717) 783-6913
- Complaints: PDE Bureau of Special Education Complaints — (717) 783-6913
- Mediation: Pennsylvania Office for Dispute Resolution — padedu.org | (800) 222-3353
- Due Process: Pennsylvania Office for Dispute Resolution — same contact
- PaTTAN (free parent support): pattan.net | (800) 360-7282



HOW TO USE iepguide.org IN PENNSYLVANIA

- **Search iepguide.org by Pennsylvania school district or city** to compare SWD percentages, program types, and specialist staffing before signing any NOREP. The NOREP gives you 10 days to respond — use that window to research the proposed school on iepguide.org before accepting or rejecting.
- **Pennsylvania's NOREP is your most powerful tool.** Before signing it, search the proposed school on iepguide.org to verify it has the appropriate program level and on-site specialist staffing. If the data raises concerns, reject the NOREP and request an alternative.
- **PaTTAN is free and can help you interpret iepguide.org data.** Contact PaTTAN at (800) 360-7282 after researching schools on iepguide.org if you need help understanding what the data means for your child's placement.
- **Before the IEP meeting:** search your child's current school and the district's other schools on iepguide.org to understand what program options exist at what SWD intensity levels — so you can speak to specific alternatives at the meeting.
- Pennsylvania has strong compensatory education rights — if a school fails to provide IEP services, you may be entitled to make-up services. Use iepguide.org to compare schools proactively to avoid situations where placement is inappropriate from the start

PLACEMENT TIMELINE — USING iepguide.org IN PENNSYLVANIA

- STEP 1 — After the Evaluation Report, search the school likely to be proposed for placement on iepguide.org BEFORE the IEP meeting — Pennsylvania schools must send the NOREP after the meeting, and you want to be prepared before then
- STEP 2 — At the IEP meeting, when the team recommends a placement, note the school name and look it up on iepguide.org to check SWD %, program type, and specialist staffing
- STEP 3 — When the NOREP arrives: you have 10 days. Use this window to verify the proposed school on iepguide.org and compare it against alternatives. This is your last formal checkpoint before placement proceeds.
- STEP 4 — If you reject the NOREP: your child's current placement is protected. Use the dispute resolution period to research better-fitted schools on iepguide.org and propose specific alternatives to the district
- STEP 5 — If your child's IEP services are not being implemented correctly: document it, contact PaTTAN, and use iepguide.org to identify schools with stronger staffing ratios as part of a compensatory education or placement change request

Legal note: This guide reflects Pennsylvania special education rules as of May 2026. Timelines and agency contacts may change. Always verify with your district and consult a qualified special education advocate or attorney for guidance specific to your child's situation.