



Quick Guide for BIE-Funded Schools

Free Appropriate Public Education

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, requires schools to provide students with disabilities with a free appropriate public education (FAPE). FAPE must be available to all children with disabilities who are eligible to attend a school funded by the Bureau of Indian Education, or BIE, and are between the ages of 4 years old and 21, inclusive. Note that the student must turn five by December 31 of the school year.

Schools funded by the BIE must provide special education and related services free of charge to students with disabilities and their parent. Examples of related services include speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, and transportation.

F

FREE

Schools operating federally funded programs must provide educational services, including special education services and related services, to students with disabilities free of charge, or at no cost, to the parent.

A

APPROPRIATE

Appropriate means educational services designed to meet the individual needs of the student, access to the general education curriculum, and challenging expectations with accommodations and modifications that support making progress making progress.

P

PUBLIC

The public school must provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to each student eligible for special education and related services in the school's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature and severity of the student's disability.

E

EDUCATION

The quality of educational services provided to students with disabilities must be equal to the quality of services provided to nondisabled peers. Teachers of students with disabilities must have received training in providing instruction to students with disabilities. Students with disabilities must be provided an opportunity to participate in nonacademic services, such as athletics and transportation.