

Free appropriate public education (FAPE)

A child with a diagnosed disability has the right to a free appropriate public education.

Procedural Safeguards

Local school districts must create and maintain safeguards with respect to FAPE. Procedural Safeguards should include:

- Parents have a right to examine their child's records
- Parents have a right to participate in meetings regarding identification, evaluation, and placement of their child
- Parents have a right to obtain an independent educational evaluation of their child

Procedural Safeguards must be provided to parents:

- 1 time every year
- Upon initial referral or parent request for evaluation
- Upon request by parent
- Upon initial filing of a complaint by parent



Your child cannot be denied special services because:

- Their behavior is problematic;
- They are not potty trained; or
- There is a waiting list

Help for Early Learning Professionals (HELP)
Manual, p. 161

www.azed.gov/early-childhood/files/2013/02/help-2013-final.pdf

Arizona Department of Education, Early Childhood

<http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood>
602-364-1530



Resources:

Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP)

Arizona Early Intervention is a state-wide system of supports and services for children birth to 3 with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

www.des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant

Phone: 602-532-9960

Raising Special Kids (RSK)

Raising Special Kids is a non-profit organization of families helping families of children with disabilities and special health needs in Arizona.

www.raisingpecialkids.org

Toll free: 800-237-3007

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is designed to assist active duty service members with a dependent who has special medical or educational needs. Service members can find more information at their installation family support center or Military One Source.

www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp

Toll free: 800-342-9647

Arizona Center for Disability Law

www.azdisabilitylaw.org

Toll free: 800-927-2260

Arizona Department of Health Services; Child Care Facilities Licensing

www.azdhs.gov/licensing/childcare-facilities

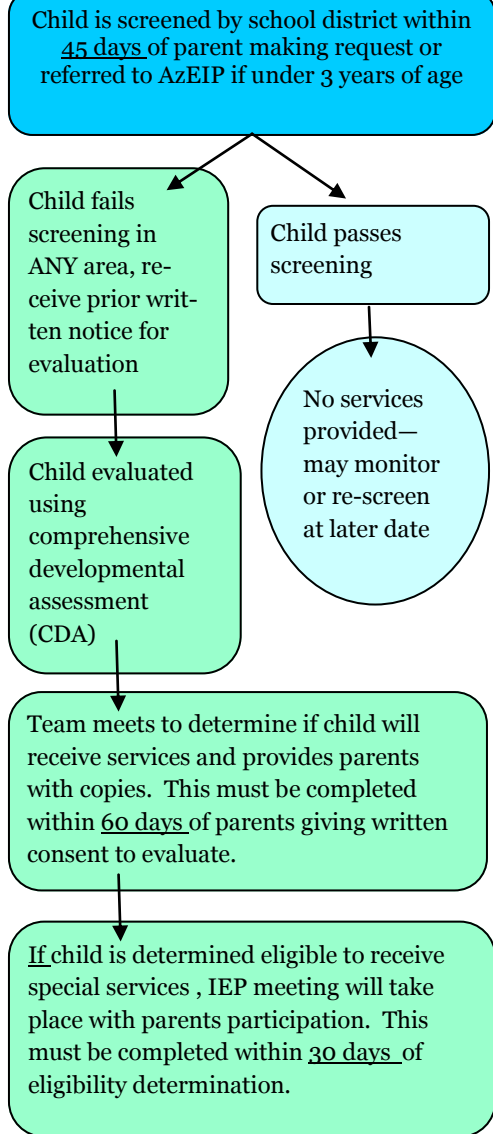
Toll free: 800-615-8555

Navigating Early Childhood Special Education Services



A Family Guide

Screening/Evaluation Process



Child Find

If you have concerns about your child's development, contact your local school district and ask when they are having their next **Child Find** event.

The **Child Find** process needs to be completed every 45 days in every school district to assist with identifying children with special needs and is for children of all ages.

During a **Child Find** event, the school district will **screen** your child to determine the need for further evaluation. During the **screening** process, all areas of development are assessed to determine if there is a concern that needs further testing. An **evaluation** will determine if your child is eligible for and in need of special services or not. Screening and evaluation is **free and confidential**.

If your child is between the ages of birth to 2 years 10.5 months, the school district will refer you to the appropriate AzEIP provider.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

"In general.--To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily." -IDEA.ed.gov (Title I/B/612/a/5)

Placement options

IEP teams should consider:

Childcare centers, Head Start classrooms, public preschool programs, home childcare providers

Transitions

AzEIP to Preschool:

2yrs. 6 mo. To 2yrs. 9mo.

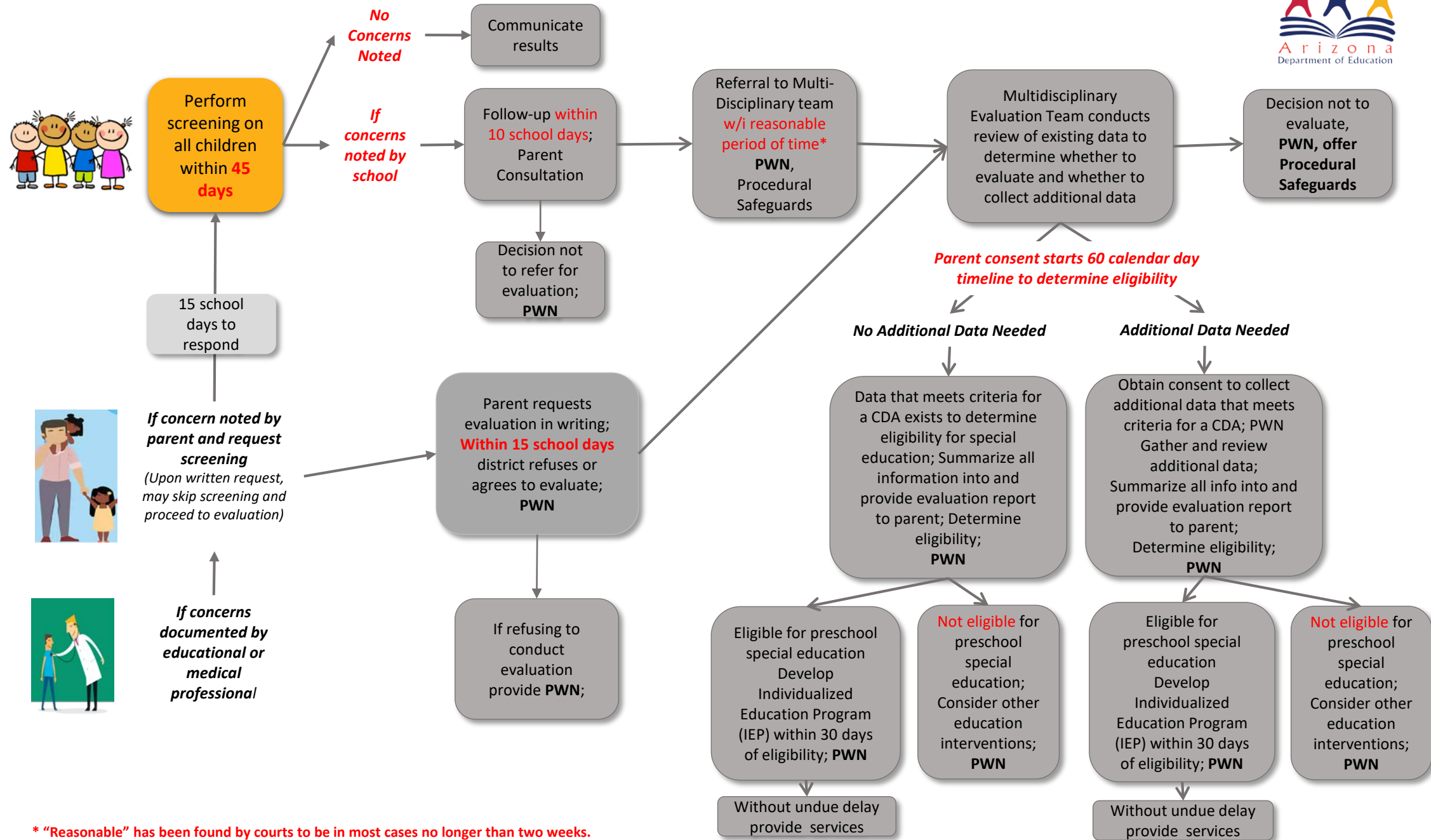
- ⇒ Transition Conference held with parents and Service Coordinator and referral is made to school district
- ⇒ If child is still eligible and parents want to continue services, school district schedules IEP meeting

Preschool to Kindergarten:

- ⇒ Team reviews current IEP to determine if it will continue into kindergarten as written or if a new evaluation and IEP are needed

Screening: "identification (screening for possible disabilities) shall be completed within 45 calendar days after entry of each preschool or kindergarten student and any student enrolling without appropriate records of screening, evaluation, and progress in school, or after notification to the [school] by parents of concerns regarding developmental or educational progress by their child aged 3 years through 21 years." [A.A.C. R7-2-401(D)(5)]

School District Child Find Process and Evaluation Flow Chart: Preschool Children 2 Years 9 Months to 5 Years Old



* "Reasonable" has been found by courts to be in most cases no longer than two weeks.