

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Myriam Rogers, Ed.D. ♦ Superintendent ♦ 6901 North Charles Street ♦ Towson, MD ♦ 21204

Notice of Services for Parentally Placed Private School Students with Disabilities (PPPSSD) 2023-2024 School Year

This is the Notice about the services Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) will provide during the 2023-2024 school year to eligible PPPSSD. As a result of annual consultation with private school and parent representatives consistent with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), BCPS will continue to provide Child Find and identified related services to students who are parentally placed in Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) approved private schools as outlined in this notice. Services documented on the students' Service Plan will be provided according to BCPS' calendar from September 2023 through May 2024 which can be located under calendars on the BCPS website. Service Plans will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Office of Special Education Programs with the U.S. Department of Education has provided the following helpful guidance:

What is the definition of PPPSSD?

The IDEA Part B regulations define parentally placed private school children with disabilities as children with disabilities under 34 C.F.R. § 300.8, enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, schools or facilities that meet the definition of elementary school in 34 C.F.R. § 300.13 or secondary school in 34 C.F.R. § 300.36. This definition does not include children with disabilities placed in or referred to private schools by public agencies who are covered under 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.145 through 300.147. 34 C.F.R. § 300.130.

How are parentally placed private school students with disabilities identified?

Under 34 C.F.R. § 300.131, the LEA where private schools are located is responsible for locating, identifying, and evaluating all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary schools, as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 300.13, and secondary schools, as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 300.36, located in the LEA. This responsibility is known as Child Find. The child find provision in 34 C.F.R. § 300.131 addresses the responsibility of the LEA where the private school is located to conduct child find for all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the LEA. This provision addresses which children enrolled in private elementary schools and secondary schools by their parents are eligible to receive services under IDEA.

What are equitable services provided to parentally placed private school students with disabilities?

Equitable services are special education and related services, including direct services, provided to parentally placed private school children with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of IDEA and its implementing regulations in 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.130 through 300.144. No parentally placed private school child with a disability has an individual right to receive some or all the special education and related services that the child would receive if enrolled in a public school. 34 C.F.R. § 300.137(a). If a child with a disability who is enrolled in a private school by the child's parents is designated to receive equitable services from an LEA, the LEA

[Type here]

must develop, review, and revise a services plan that describes the specific special education and related services that will be provided to the child.

Further guidance from OSEP can be found here: <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/questions-and-answers-on-serving-children-with-disabilities-placed-by-their-parents-in-private-schools/>

For the 2023-2024 school year, BCPS will provide:

- **Child Find:**
BCPS will continue to locate, identify, and evaluate all parentally placed private school students suspected of having a disability and attending school in Baltimore County, as required by IDEA and MSDE. Referrals may be made by calling the office of Child Find at 443-809-3017. BCPS agrees that the school responsible for conducting the initial and subsequent Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meetings will invite a representative of the private school to participate at the IEP team. Child Find services are available twelve (12) months of the year.

- **Related Services:**
Speech and Language Therapy: BCPS will provide direct services up to sixty (60) minutes a week.

Occupational Therapy & Physical Therapy: BCPS will provide direct services up to 30 minutes a week.

Itinerant Services: BCPS will provide direct services provided by a Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Teacher of the Visually Impaired and/or an Orientation & Mobility Instructor up to sixty (60) minutes a week as well as FM systems for identified students.

- BCPS may provide materials or professional learning related to PPPSSD needs.

BCPS will provide the services listed above at private school sites unless alternative arrangements are deemed reasonable by BCPS. BCPS retains sole discretion whether alternative arrangements are necessary and whether services may be provided in person or virtually. Among other factors, BCPS may consider the number of students located at a site or the availability of requisite staff.

Based on the input received from private and parochial representative and discussions with BCPS staff, BCPS will not provide:

- Direct special education and classroom instruction to students
- Assistive technology
- Sign language or foreign language interpreters
- Transition planning services
- Extended School Year (ESY) services
- Software licenses
- Additional Assistants

In addition, BCPS staff will not write 504 Plans or provide special education or related services to students with 504 Plans enrolled in private schools. In accordance with state regulations,

[Type here]

home-schooled students are not considered private students and are not provided services under this notice.

BCPS staff will continue to meet for annual consultations with family and private school representatives and share the Notice of Services annually.

Please contact the Department of Special Education at 443-809-3660 if you have questions or concerns.

Allison Myers
Executive Director, Special Education

Copies to: Ms. Melissa DiDinato, Chief Academic Officer
Ms. Conya Bailey, Director, Department of Special Education
Ms. Maren Larsen, Coordinator, Office of Related Services
Ms. Paula Boykin, Coordinator, Office of Birth to Five Services