



EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION INFORMATION SNAPSHOTS

SERVING PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES RESIDING IN THE SAU

What SAUs must do:

School Administrative Units are required to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to preschool-aged children with disabilities who live within their catchment area. This includes:

- Children identified for special education or in the Child Find process
- Children who live within the SAU's catchment area

When SAUs are not responsible for FAPE:

- If the child attends a program outside of the SAU's catchment area and the SAU already has available programming
- If the child attends a program outside the SAU through a Superintendent's agreement

If the SAU does not have a preschool program or partnerships in the catchment area of the SAU, the SAU must still find a way to meet the child's needs and meet the requirements of the IEP, using options like:

- For a child who needs a program:
 - Establish a Superintendent's agreement with another SAU
 - Partner with a private childcare program or Head Start
 - Serve the child in a kindergarten classroom
- For a child who needs services:
 - Provide itinerant or telehealth in the home, childcare, or preschool where the child attends
 - Arrange for services at a service provider location

The Department is available to help SAUs find additional solutions if they are experiencing problems or challenges in the provision of special education services. Contact us: ECSE.Team@maine.gov