

# Military Families, Welcome to Delaware!

## General Education Information:

- ✓ Our State Education Agency is the [Delaware Department of Education](#)
- ✓ 19 public school districts in Delaware and charter schools
- ✓ Charter schools function like a school district, with the same responsibilities to students with disabilities.
- ✓ DE Public Schools receive annual [Report Cards](#).
- ✓

## Special Education Information

- ✓ In Delaware, students in special education are referred to as “exceptional children”
- ✓ Our parent rights handbook is referred to as the [Procedural Safeguards Manual](#)
- ✓ Policies governing special education in Delaware can be found [here](#).



PIC is **Delaware’s Parent Training and Information Center**, serving families with children birth to 26 with disabilities or special health care needs. Our work reflects our commitment to advancing effective parent engagement in education.

### Have questions?

Contact Tina Andrews  
PTI Project Coordinator  
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## Some questions you can ask PIC...

- How can I be sure my child is receiving “comparable services” when we get to Delaware?
- What should I do if I think my child might need special education services? How does the process work here?
- What are my rights if I hear my child is receiving interventions through MTSS, and I want an evaluation by the school?
- How does reevaluation work when we move from another state?
- What do I need to know about the roles and responsibilities at the state and local level?
- Who should I talk to if I’m not satisfied with my child’s IEP or his/her progress in academic or functional areas?
- How can I make sure that my high school child stays on track for graduation even though some DE requirements are different?
- I’ve heard, “we don’t do that in Delaware.” Is this true?

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## Delaware may differ from other states in these areas:

- *Birth to 3 "Infant-Toddler" program:* This is administered Child Development Watch. Many other states call this an Early Intervention program, or may use other names.
- *Preschool:* DE does not provide universal Pre-K. For information about state programs for preschool aged children visit [here](#).
- Delaware has a [Literacy Plan](#) that establishes a framework to address the state's literacy challenges.
- *Initial Evaluation* timeline is 90 calendar days or 45 school days (whichever is less), starting on the day of written parental consent for an evaluation. By the 90<sup>th</sup> calendar day or 45<sup>th</sup> school day, the school must hold an IEP meeting and develop an IEP, if the child is eligible.
- There is *no definite time limit* for conducting reevaluations, but they are supposed to be completed in a "timely manner."
- *Delaware uses 14 Eligibility categories:* the 13 found in federal law plus developmental delay (DD). DD can be used until a child's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday under DE Policy.
- *Principals have sole authority* over grade assignment, promotion and retention decisions.
- *IEP forms* can be found on the Delaware Department of Education website [here](#).
- Delaware is a leader [in Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) that allows Delaware students the chance to earn early college credits, industry-recognized credentials and work experience while still in high school.
- Delaware has many [transition](#) resources available for students with disabilities ages 14-26.
- A statewide special education dispute-resolution program that supports families and schools to work collaboratively to address the educational needs of exceptional children, The Special Education Partnership for the Amicable Resolution of Conflict ([SPARC](#)), is used by parents throughout the State when there is a disagreement with schools or districts.

## Other Resources:

Delaware Family Voices <http://www.delawarefamilytofamily.org/>

Family Shade <http://www.familyshade.org/>

Autism Delaware <https://www.delautism.org/>

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