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.

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?

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?
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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 90th calendar day or 45th 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 9th 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/