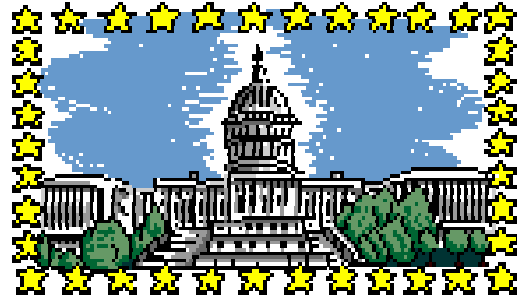


What is Special Education?

Special education is governed by federal law under the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004) Public Law [108-446]**. It is defined as



<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/2A7BF936-8572-44A7-9FFD-B2D44E1990F9/6667/PL1.pdf>

"specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability." Special education provides additional services, supports and programs, for students with special needs. Sometimes these are provided in specialized placements or environments; depending on the needs of the child. The vast majority of students in Special Education receive services in their home school and with non-disabled peers. The range of special education support will vary based on need.

There are many guidelines governing Special Education and the **MCPS website**

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/specialed/infomcps.shtm>

is a good resource for parents.