



Proportionate Share

Under [IDEA](#), public school districts are required to find and assess students with disabilities whose parents have enrolled them in private schools or are homeschooling them. The districts need to report the number of these students. Based on this count, they receive a portion of federal special education funds and required by [34 C.F.R. §§ 300.132](#) and [133](#) to provide equitable services to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities.

What are Equitable Services?

Equitable services are special education and related services for private school students with disabilities.

Who Qualifies?

According to [34 CFR § 300.130](#), a student with a disability who was placed in a K-12 private school by their parents and requires educational support due to their disability. The private school may be nonprofit elementary or secondary schools and homeschool programs. This includes families who are utilizing the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account program and families in other states besides Arizona.

Who Doesn't Qualify?

Private school students with disabilities who were placed in private schools by the district are not eligible for funds. This is known as "district private placement". Additionally, it excludes children with disabilities covered under specific federal [regulations](#).

How Do Students Get Equitable Services?

To receive equitable services, your child needs to demonstrate the necessity for special education support. Instead of getting a Individualized Education Program (IEP), private school students with disabilities who are designated to receive equitable services need a service plan. This plan, mandated by [34 C.F.R. § 300.132\(b\)](#), is developed by the school district where the private school is located. Per [34 C.F.R. § 300.138\(b\)\(1\)](#), the plan outlines the specific special education and related services your child will receive based on the district's offerings for private school students with disabilities. The first step is to email the district and schedule an evaluation. If you already have a district evaluation, you need to email the director of special education and request a meeting to discuss "proportionate share/ equitable services" for your child.

What does the Process Look Like?

When a child with a disability attends a private school and will receive special education or related services from the district where the private school is located, the district is mandated to organize

meetings for developing, reviewing, and revising a services plan for the child. It is required that a representative from the private school attend these meetings. Furthermore, according to [34 C.F.R. § 300.138\(b\)\(2\)\(iii\)](#), the services plan must undergo an annual review and revision process.

How are Funds Determined?

Funds are determined by the public school district following consultations with private school representatives. The amount allotted for each student's services is decided based on discussions regarding individual needs, available resources, and the planned services. Once these funds are exhausted, the public school district's financial [obligation](#) for that school year concludes. For example, a district may say "your child qualifies for up to \$2000 in speech therapy appointments" and then you choose from their list, or select your own speech therapy provider. The district is allowed to say the therapy has to happen at their school, with their provider, although that is not always the case.

However, it's important to note, as per [34 C.F.R. § 300.138\(a\)\(2\)](#), that these students do not have the right to receive all the special education services provided in public schools. Thus, some private school students with disabilities may receive no services while others do.

More Resources:

[FY24 ESS October 1 Parentally Placed Private School Students - AZ Department of Education](#)

[FAQs: Proportionate Share/Equitable Services - AZ Department of Education](#)

[Questions And Answers On Serving Children With Disabilities Placed By Their Parents In Private Schools - Office Of Special Education And Rehabilitative Services Office Of Special Education Programs](#)