

Special Education and 504 Services

Mecklenburg County Public Schools offer special education services for qualifying students that attend school within Mecklenburg County or are home-schooled Mecklenburg County residents. These services are available for qualifying students ages 2 – 22 years at no cost to the families of those students. In order to qualify for services, a student must present with a mental, physical, or emotional disability that impedes and/or hinders their educational performance. This determination is made based upon results from a battery of tests by an eligibility committee of qualified persons including, but not limited to, the school psychologist, a visiting teacher/social worker, director of exceptional programs, educational diagnostician, regular education teacher, speech therapist, and early childhood teacher. Any student deemed eligible for services, will receive their education as outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP), which the parent/guardian/caretaker must approve prior to implementation.

Mecklenburg County Public Schools also offer 504 services for qualifying students at no cost to the families of those students. These services may provide classroom and testing accommodations for those students with documented medical, emotional, or physical conditions that limit a major life activity. Some examples of these documented conditions include ADHD, diabetes, heart conditions, limited use of limbs, anxiety disorders, depression, and asthma. Qualification for services is based upon documentation of need and determined by a committee of qualified professionals including, but not limited to, school principal or designee, teacher(s), and guidance counselors. Any student eligible for 504 services, will receive needed accommodations through their 504 Plan. Parents/guardian/caretaker must approve their child's 504 plan prior to implementation.

Anyone may refer a child for special education and/or 504 services. Referrals may be made to school principals, guidance counselors, teachers, or directly to the Department of Exceptional Programs. Upon referral, a representative of Mecklenburg County Public Schools will follow-up in order to arrange a meeting to discuss possible testing and/or screening options and obtain parent/guardian/caretaker permission in writing to proceed with the referral process.

For additional information, please contact your child's principal or the Department of Exceptional Programs (738-6111 or 447-7631).

Special Education Advisory Committee

The Mecklenburg County Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee membership consists of parents, community representatives, public agency representatives, and consultants (employees of the school system). Annual membership is approved by the School Board. The Advisory Committee holds meetings at least quarterly and these meetings are advertised in local newspapers and on local radio stations. The general public is always welcome to attend.

Some responsibilities and duties of the Special Education Advisory Committee include advising the School Board on unmet educational needs of children with disabilities, assisting with developing long range plans to assist students with disabilities, submit recommendations and reports regarding the education of students with disabilities, and reviewing the Annual Special Education Plan.

For additional information on attending meetings or becoming a member, please contact the Department of Exceptional Programs (738-6111 or 447-7631).

Homebound Services

Mecklenburg County Public Schools offer homebound instruction for qualifying enrolled students who will miss two or more consecutive weeks of school due to physical, medical, or emotional complications. Homebound instruction is intended to be temporary and is based upon the recommendation and written documentation from a licensed medical physician, physician assistant, family nurse practitioner, psychologist, or psychiatrist. Some examples of qualifying conditions include, but are not limited to, injury due to accidents; contagious diseases such as mono; pregnancy; and surgery. Applications for homebound services are available at each school, on our website (mcpsweb.org), or by contacting the Department of Exceptional Programs (434-738-6111; 434-447-7631). Applications consist of two sections, medical and parental, and both must be completed. Once a student qualifies for homebound instruction, a teacher is located and will make contact to set up mutually agreeable days, times, and a location for services. Mecklenburg County Public School students eligible for homebound services may receive the following hours per the Virginia Department of Education Guidelines: High School, 2 hours of instruction per week per core academic subject; Middle School, 8 hours of instruction per week; & Elementary School, 5 hours of instruction per week. The number of hours for instruction for homebound eligible students that have a current IEP or 504 are decided by those respective committees. Homebound services recommended by a licensed medical physician, physician assistant, family nurse practitioner, psychologist, or psychiatrist due to physical, medical, or emotional complications are offered at no cost to families of enrolled students. Completed applications should be submitted to the Department of Exceptional Programs for processing and approval.