

Specialized Educational Programs

Special Education Services

Culpeper County Public Schools offers a continuum of special education programs and services to meet the needs of students with disabilities. We adhere to the principals and requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) and the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia.

The Culpeper County Public Schools' Office of Special Education is committed to the personal and intellectual success of each and every student. We recognize the uniqueness and individuality of each child and share a vision of preparing students to live productive and fulfilled lives in a diverse and competitive world.

We believe:

- * All students merit high standards for achievement.
- * Communication and collaboration among parents, students, educational professionals, and community partners are essential components to supporting student growth and recognizing areas of strength as well as areas of social/emotional and academic need.
- * Students deserve high quality instructional programs.
- * Data collection and teacher effectiveness are key to student progress.
- * Ongoing professional development is necessary for teachers to access research-validated methods that promote student progress and to stay informed of procedures that reflect adherence to the federal, state and local mandates governing special education.

For more information, contact the Office of Special Education at (540) 825-3677, ext. 3135.

Child Find

Culpeper County Public Schools complies with federal requirement to identify, locate and evaluate children who are birth to age 21, inclusive, who are in need of special education related services.

Children from Birth to Age 5

Culpeper County Public Schools participates in the Rappahannock/Rapidan Community Services Board which oversees the requirements found in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. If you suspect that your child between the ages of birth and 2 may have a disability or you are concerned that your child is not meeting his/her developmental milestones, please contact the Infant & Toddler Connection of the Rappahannock/Rapidan Community Services Board at (540) 829-7480.

If your preschool child is between the ages of 2 and 5, please call the Office of Special Education at (540) 825-3677, ext. 3134 to schedule a free developmental screening. A teacher will screen your child's speech-language skills, motor skills, social development and knowledge of readiness concepts. A hearing screening will also be conducted free of charge.

The developmental screening takes approximately one hour and is designed to be an enjoyable, educational experience for your child. Depending on the outcome of the screening, further testing will be recommended to determine whether preschool special education services are needed.

The Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia require that public schools conduct screenings of all children, within 60 business days in initial enrollment, in the areas of vision, hearing, speech, voice & language, and fine and gross motor skills. In addition, the vision and hearing of all children in grades three, seven, and ten is screened during the school year. Parents will receive notification from their child's school if their child fails one of these screenings. This information will assist in determining if a referral for special education evaluation is indicated.

School Age Children

If you suspect that your school age child (kindergarten through 12th grade) has a disability that requires special education services, please contact the principal or special education designee of the CCPS school your child attends, or would attend in the case of a child who is attending a private school. You may also contact the Office of Special Education at (540) 825-3677, ext. 3134 and you will be directed to the appropriate school employee.

For more information about the Child Find process, please contact the Office of Special Education at (540) 825-3677, ext. 3134 or the Parent/Teacher Resource Center (PTRC) at (540) 825-0621 ext. 2131. The PTRC is available to Culpeper County families, teachers, and others concerned with the care and education of children with learning differences and disabilities.

The PTRC provides newsletters to inform families of current issues in special education and available resources, a lending library of books, newsletters, videos and other training materials, support through listening and problem solving with families, and workshops for parents and educators on special education and parenting topics.

Rehabilitation - Section 504 Services

The Culpeper County School Board does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of disability. Where a student believes that he or she has been discriminated against on the basis of disability, the student shall have the right to request a hearing. The Superintendent of Culpeper County Public Schools shall establish procedures that conform to federal requirements for any student alleging disability discrimination.

Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act is a broad civil rights law which protects the rights of individuals with "disabilities." The law also provides a basis to seek accommodations at school for students with disabilities who are not eligible under Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Section 504 protects all school-age children and others who qualify as disabled. Being disabled refers to individuals who have or have had a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity or is regarded by others as having a disability. Major life activities include hearing, walking, seeing, breathing, learning, working, caring for oneself, and performing manual tasks.

Limited English Proficiency Services

Students for whom English is not their primary language will be assessed for their understanding of and their ability to communicate in English. Students who are eligible will be provided supplemental instruction according to their academic need. Contact the School Board office for more information.

Preschool Programs

Currently, the Culpeper County School Division offers several preschool programs to qualifying students. These programs are funded through various sources and have specific guidelines as to which students qualify for services. These guidelines are mandated by the federal and state governments.

Virginia Preschool Initiative (State-and Locally-Funded Program):

The VPI programs serve students who will turn four on or before September 30 and will be attending kindergarten the following year. Students attend this full-time preschool program according to the school calendar. Students are taught by a certified teacher who is assisted by a para-educator. Each VPI program serves a maximum of 18 students. The criteria for qualifying are based on economic need and other indicators. For more information about these programs, please contact the VPI Coordinator at the School Board Office at (540) 825-3677.

Federal Compensatory Instructional Programs (Title 1)

Culpeper County Public Schools receives federal grants to supplement the local instructional programs at selected county elementary schools where high percentages of students receive meals free or at reduced prices. These federal funds are used to employ additional teachers, to employ reading or math specialists, to provide professional development for staff, or to purchase supplemental instructional materials. Contact the Title I office at the School Board Office at (540) 825-3677.

McKinney-Vento (Homeless) Services

The Culpeper County School Board is committed to educating homeless children and youth and adheres to the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act. Homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. For questions regarding the rights of homeless children and families, contact the Department of Student Services for Culpeper County Public Schools at (540) 825-3677.

Gifted Services

The School Division has uniform procedures for screening, referring, identifying, and serving students in kindergarten through twelfth grade who are gifted in general intellectual or specific academic aptitude. The School Division will provide written notification to and seek written consent from parents and legal guardians to conduct any required assessment to determine a referred student's eligibility for the division's gifted education program, and provide services for an identified gifted student in the division's gifted education program.