



from Equip for Equality's Legal Advocacy Program

## EFE FACT SHEET – Special Education

### IDEA Services by Age

Birth to Age 3	A child identified or at-risk for a disability will be provided comprehensive services based on his needs as outlined in an IFSP.
Age 3	At age three, the school district must ensure that either an IEP or IFSP is in effect.
Age 3 to 5	During the ages of 3 through 5 the IFSP may serve in place of the IEP.
Ages 6 to 16	At age 14, or as soon as appropriate, the IEP team can begin to address transition and post-secondary needs and goals.
Ages 16 to 21	Postsecondary goals begin <i>no later</i> than the first IEP that is effective when the child turns 16.
Age 21	Services provided through the IDEA cease at age 21, or at the end of the school year in which student turns 21.

#### **DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?**

Contact Equip for Equality (all services are free of charge):  
800.537.2532 (voice) or 800.610.2779 (TTY) [Contactus@equipforequality.org](mailto:Contactus@equipforequality.org)  
[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

This resource material is intended as a guide for people with disabilities. Nothing written here shall be understood to be legal advice. For specific legal advice, an attorney should be consulted.

Equip for Equality, an independent nonprofit organization, is the Illinois state Protection & Advocacy System whose mission is to advance the human and civil rights of children and adults with disabilities. This publication was made possible by a grant from the Chicago Bar Foundation. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views of the Chicago Bar Foundation.

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