

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

Working with the Nonpublic School

Parents are encouraged to select the nonpublic school carefully. Explain all your child's needs and behaviors to make sure the school is ready to provide all the supports necessary for your child to be successful. Ask that the nonpublic school use the IEP as a guide. Ask that a personalized education plan be used to document the child's strengths and needs.

The North Carolina Division of Nonpublic Education (<http://www.ncdnpe.org/>) has information for parents about home schools and private schools, including nonpublic school directories (<http://www.ncdnpe.org/hhh118.aspx>).

Obligations of the Nonpublic School

Children who are placed in a nonpublic school by their parents do not have a right to receive all of the special education and related services that they would receive if enrolled in the public schools. Likewise, a private school does not have a legal obligation to provide special education and related services for students who are children with disabilities.

Working with the Public School System

If you need the public school to evaluate your child, contact your local assigned school. If you are unable to connect with the appropriate staff there, contact the central office for the school district. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/>) provides an Education Directory with contact information for public school districts.

The NC DPI also offers valuable information on the Exceptional Children section of their website (<http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/>).

Assessment prior to Purchasing Technology

Parents are encouraged to seek a professional assessment of the child's needs before making a purchase of educational technology. The North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (<http://www.ncatp.org/>) offers device demonstrations and device trials. They also conduct assessments. Other clinics or university programs may also be resources for an assessment prior to making an investment in educational hardware or software.