

## *Funding*

Albemarle County Public Schools is required to provide special education and related services for children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private schools located in the Albemarle County School Division. Albemarle County Public Schools can provide services, including direct services, such as professional development for teachers, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and provide educational materials in specialized formats. Funds for these services are equal to a proportionate amount of the federal funds made available to the Albemarle County under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as related to the number of private school students located in the Albemarle County School Division.

## *Other Albemarle County School Responsibilities*

The funds used to provide the special education and related services must be controlled and administered by Albemarle County Public Schools. In addition, Albemarle County Public Schools must provide the Virginia Department of Education the number of children enrolled by their parents in private schools evaluated by Albemarle County Public Schools, the number of such children determined to be children with disabilities, and the number of children served.

**Albemarle County Public Schools**  
Department of Special Services  
401 McIntire Rd. - Room 323  
Charlottesville, VA 22902-4596

*Albemarle County Public  
Schools*



## ***Students with Disabilities in Private Schools:***

***Public and Private Schools  
Working Together to  
Determine Meaningful  
Services***

***Albemarle County Public Schools***

*Department of Special Services  
401 McIntire Rd. - Room 323  
Charlottesville, VA 22902-4596*

*Phone: 434-296-5885  
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## *The Law*

The reauthorized *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) was signed into law on Dec. 3, 2004, by President George W. Bush. The provisions of the act became effective on July 1, 2005.

The law has changed. The most significant change for students with disabilities enrolled in private schools by their parents is that *the school division in which the private school is located is responsible for child find activities and the provision of special services to eligible students.*

What has not changed is Albemarle County Public School's belief that children with disabilities should not be excluded from special education evaluations or services if their parents have chosen to place them in a private school.

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## *Child Find*

Albemarle County Schools is responsible for conducting a thorough and complete child find process to determine the number of parentally placed children with disabilities attending private schools located in the Albemarle County School Division.

The first part of this process involves establishing contact and a system of communication with each private school.

The next phase involves the cooperation of

private schools and parents. In order to determine the level of funding needed and the type of services appropriate, Albemarle County Schools need to know who the students are. Parents should contact Albemarle County Schools directly if their child is eligible for special education services. That is, their child has previously been found by a public school system to be eligible for special education services as a child with a disability. Albemarle County Schools will not release confidential information until it secures parental consent.

Lastly, each private school is provided information for contact with Albemarle County Public Schools in the event a student is suspected of having a disability that requires special education and related services. Parents are strongly encouraged to work with both their private school and the local public school in order to identify students who may be disabled and require special services.

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## *Meaningful Communication, Meaningful Services*



Students with disabilities enrolled by their parent in private schools are entitled to some special services.

These services are defined through a process that includes meaningful consultation with representatives of the private schools within Albemarle County. Albemarle County Schools will consider these communications when making its final determination on the ser-

vices to be provided to these students. The communication will take place in a formal meeting. The meeting will be scheduled to take place during the month of March.

As a result of this process, Albemarle County will determine the services based on information from its consultation meeting, analysis of the present population to be served and their needs, best practices, and available funding.

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## *Private School Service Plans*

A representative of Albemarle County Public Schools will contact parents who enroll a child in a private school in Albemarle County who is eligible to receive special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. A meeting will be scheduled to review the services that will be offered to the child. These services will be outlined in a document called a Private School Service Plan.

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## *Home Schooling, Child Find and Service Plans*

Children with disabilities in home school programs in Albemarle County are considered to be "students with disabilities placed by their parents in private schools". Parents of children in home school programs are entitled to the same communication, child find activities and special services provided to students in private schools as described in this brochure.