Early Intervention (EI) programs in Virginia are administered by local agencies (primarily community services boards). At age 2 you can decide whether to keep your child in EI until they turn 3 or transition them to early childhood special education services through the school division. Visit the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia for additional information.

Check out the different schools in the locality to which you are moving. Programs may differ. You can register your child remotely or in person even if you do not yet have the required residency documentation. In Virginia, some schools are designated as Purple Star Schools as recognition for their excellence in supporting military-connected children and their families.

Review the Virginia Department of Education Parent’s Guide to Special Education. Your child is entitled to all the rights and protections under special education law and regulations as any other student in Virginia. This includes important consent rights.

Remember that your child is entitled to comparable, but not necessarily identical services from their previous IEP. The school division can adopt the current IEP or conduct evaluations and develop a new IEP.

If your child is 14 or older, they must have a transition plan as part of their IEP even if they did not have one in the former school division.

If your child is a senior when you transfer, there are policies in place that will allow them to obtain a diploma from the former school division if they can not meet the requirements in the new school division. Visit the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) to become familiar with that and other military-connected student protections.

OTHER SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

If your child has Medicaid, you will need to reapply for benefits in Virginia at your Local Department of Social Services. If they currently have a Medicaid Waiver, before arriving in Virginia contact your new locality’s Community Services Board (CSB) to determine the next steps for eligibility.

If your child is 14 or older reach out to the Virginia vocational rehabilitation agency, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services for disability employment services while they are in school or when they exit school.

Contact parent support groups or advocacy organizations in the area you will be moving to. They may be able to help with recommendations regarding school programs, medical providers, recreational programs, respite services, and more.
State Agencies
- Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services
- Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
- Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Virginia Department of Education
  - Special Education
  - Parent Resource Centers
  - Parent Ombudsman for Special Education
  - State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC)
- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services
  - DMAS - Cardinal Care Medicaid Program-Home and Community-Based Waivers
- Virginia Department of Social Services
- Virginia Office for Children's Services

Disability Advocacy and Parent/Professional, Advocacy Organizations
- disAbility Law Center of Virginia
- Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)
- The Arc of Virginia
- VCU - Center for Family Involvement (CFI)

Documents and Websites
- Arc of Virginia Introduction to Medicaid Waivers
- PEATC Digital Portfolio for Military Families
- Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia
- TTAC Online
- VDOE Guidance for Military Families with Students in Special Education
- Virginia Public School Listing by Division
- VDOE Family Engagement Network - Things to Know When Transferring to Virginia for Military Families
- VDOE Family Engagement Network - Military Families of Exceptional Family Members Birth to 5 Years: Things to Know When Moving to Virginia