

Griffin-Spalding County Schools  
Special Needs Preschool Program

216 South Sixth Street

Griffin, Georgia 30224

770-229-3700

770-227-0358 Fax

Welcome to Griffin-Spaulding County School's Preschool program!



We are here to assist parents and the community service providers in identifying young children with possible disabilities. Attached you will find some information on federal, state and local policies regarding the process, availability and content of our program.

We work closely with parents, private preschools and child care facilities to assist with young students' educational needs. We want our youngest learners to start their school years with as much success as possible. Take a moment to read through the program description and frequently asked questions.

If you have any questions, please call 770-229-5927 or 770-229-3700. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Faulk, Supervisor  
Special Needs Preschool Program



# Special Education Preschool Services for Griffin-Spalding County Schools

Margaret Faulk, Preschool Supervisor



Services are available to children ages 3 and 4 who are experiencing significant delays in developing sensory skills, such as: hearing/vision, speech/language, motor skills, social/emotional skills (relating to others), physical/health problems, or autism.

## Who should be referred?

A child aged 3 or 4 who has possible delays in speaking, moving, seeing, hearing, following or understanding directions, or playing with other children can be referred.

## Who may refer a child?

A child may be referred by parents, preschool or day care programs, doctors/health departments, or other child serve agencies. Parents must agree to the referral and sign this referral form.

## What services are available?

Developmental testing, psychoeducational testing, speech/language testing, and a hearing and vision screening that may be included with the evaluation,

conducted by an interdisciplinary team of experts.

Developmentally appropriate class placement based on the child's individual needs

Speech and language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and vision or hearing impaired support on an educational needs basis

Parent support information

Interagency collaboration with private and public service providers

## Cost

All services are free. Eligibility for services is determined by the Georgia State Department of

Education guidelines for preschool children with disabilities.

Intervention strategies may need to be incorporated in the natural environment prior to a formal assessment, and can be implemented with assistance from the Special Needs Preschool Program.

## For information or to refer a child in Spalding County, call:

Margaret Faulk, Supervisor  
Special Needs Preschool Program  
Griffin-Spalding County Schools  
216 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Griffin, Georgia 30224  
770-229-5927 or 770-229-3700  
770-227-0358 Fax

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male Female Race/Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Referring Agency/Program/Physician \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Home Phone Work Phone Cell Phone

Reason for Referral \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Please mail completed form to:  
Margaret Faulk, Special Needs Preschool Program, Griffin-Spalding County Schools, 216 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Griffin, Georgia 30224



## DIVISIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

### Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Prior Intervention for Young Children

#### 1.) What does the term “Prior Intervention” mean?

The term “Prior Intervention” refers to the GaDOE requirement of documented evidence of educational intervention **before** a student, who is experiencing **academic** problems; **behavioral** problems; or **other** educational problems, may be considered for special education services. The interventions are attempts to remediate academic or behavioral problems so that special education referrals are made only when necessary.

#### 2.) What is Response to Intervention (RTI)?

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a multi-step approach to providing services and interventions to students who struggle with learning at increasing levels of intensity. The progress students make at each stage of intervention is closely monitored. Results of this monitoring are used to make decisions about the need for further research-based instruction and/or intervention in general education, in special education or both. *Referenced from NCLD.org*

#### 3.) Are Response to Intervention (RTI) and Prior Intervention similar?

Yes. “Prior Intervention” is the name that the Georgia Department of Education is using for “Response to Intervention”

#### 4.) Is “Documentation of Prior Intervention” required?

Yes. Documentation of Prior Intervention is now a part of our State Special Education Regulations regarding Eligibility Determination.

#### 5.) What is the legal basis for “Prior Intervention”?

The legal basis comes from *Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act 2004(IDEA 2004)*, section [34 C.F.R. 300.306(b) (1) - (2)] which states:

**A child must not be determined to be a child with a disability if the primary factor for that determination is –**

1. **Lack of appropriate instruction** in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction as defined in section 1208(3) of ESEA);
2. **Lack of appropriate instruction** in mathematics; or
3. Limited English proficiency; and
4. If the child does not otherwise meet the eligibility criteria under this Rule.

Documented evidence that “prior interventions were tried before eligibility determination is the GaDOE’s answer of ensuring that each child being referred to special education received “appropriate instruction”.

**6.) Is “Prior Intervention” required for Young Children?**

Yes. The regulation applies to all children 3-21 years of age being considered for special education services.

**7.) Does “Prior Intervention” apply to children with Speech or Behavioral concerns?**

Yes. It applies to all children 3-21 years of age being considered for special education services.

**8.) Is “Prior Intervention” the GADOE way of delaying or denying special education services to children?**

Prior Intervention *is not* an attempt to **delay or deny** students the benefits of special education when such services are needed. However, many students can receive the help they need without the additional programs and services involved in identification and placement in special education. In general, interventions should be designed to respond to the student’s individual needs. Most teachers, by virtue of their training and experience, have knowledge of different instructional and classroom management methods. Interventions must be attempted and the results documented. These interventions must be designed to meet the individual needs of the student.

**9.) What does evidenced or scientifically-based Intervention mean?**

Evidenced or scientifically-based intervention means that the intervention being used to address the child’s academic, behavioral, or educational concerns has research to support the specific intervention method or model. The intervention may also have been reviewed by peers.

**10.) What is “appropriate” instruction for Young Children?**

Appropriate instruction for educating young children in Georgia is teaching them under the guidance of a set of developmentally appropriate standards, which has been developed and approved for use with this age group. In Georgia, there are four:

- 1. The Department of Early Care and Learning/Bright from the Start-Georgia Early Learning Standards (GELS) for Birth to Three**
- 2. The Department of Early Care and Learning/Bright from the Start-Georgia Pre-K Standards for Four Year Olds**
- 3. The Head Start-Child Outcomes Framework**
- 4. The Georgia Department of Education-Georgia Performance Standards**

All of the above have been aligned creating a seamless set of standards from Birth thru twelfth grade.