Committee for the Eligibility and Profiling of Special Education Services

Until the end of the 5780 (2019-20) school year, the eligibility of children with special needs for assistance in integration within mainstream education was established by the integration committee, and their eligibility for assignment in special education was established by an assignment committee. This assistance included individual support by an assistant, extra learning hours, or assignment to a comprehensive setting – in accordance with the circular issued by the Director General of the Ministry of Education and the committee's recommendation.
As of the 5781 (2020-21) school year, Amendment No. 11 to the Law, which states that the eligibility of children with special needs for special education services would be determined by an Eligibility and Profiling Committee, took effect.
The committee, headed by a representative of the Ministry of Education, will establish students' eligibility for special education services, profile the services, the child's level of functioning, and the volume of resources that can be offered.
The committee's members include: a representative of the local authority, a representative of the Ministry of Education, a representative of the Psychological-Educational Service, and a representative of the Parents' Association.
The appropriate education format will be determined in accordance with the decision of the committee, or will be chosen by the parents.

Committee format during COVID-19

Due to the guidelines of the Ministries of Health and Education, the committees have changed format. Click here for further information.

Who can submit a request for debate by the Eligibility and Profiling Committee?

The following may submit the request:

- The parents or their child
- A multidisciplinary team
- A representative of the local Education Authority
- A public organization that has been authorized to do so by the Minister of Education
- A social services representative who has been authorized to do so by the Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, and Social Services

What do Special Education services include?

Special Education services include a changing envelope of educational and therapeutic assistance, in accordance with the selected track, the needs of the child, and the level of functioning established for the child.
Parents receive a written breakdown of the special services their children are eligible for from the Eligibility and Profiling Committee according to the format of their schooling:

- A mainstream class in a mainstream education setting
- A special education class in a mainstream education setting
- Special education

Children assigned to a mainstream educational setting where Special Education services are provided will receive them as a personal allowance, which will include: weekly teaching hours and support in the form of teaching, therapy, or assistance.
You should know: The extent of the allowance is personal, but

it may be given in the form of group support, according to the child's needs, based on the decision of the multidisciplinary team and with the involvement of the parents. If you receive support as part of a group of students who are eligible for Special Education services, only your personal share in the group will be exercised.
Breakdown of the personal allowances as contained in the amendment to the Special Education Law.

Who is eligible for Special Education services?

Children with special needs, who have been diagnosed as such by a professional (see Appendix 2 for the list of professionals), who have been determined to be eligible for special education services and to what exent by the Eligibility and Profiling Committee.
The committee's decisions are adapted to the child's needs or level of functioning and include the following spheres: Cognitive, academic, linguistic, emotional, social, communication, independent functioning, and organization.

How do parents whose children are in municipal education submit documents to the Committee?

Parents whose children are in municipal education (kindergartens and schools) must submit documents via the educational staff. The educational staff will submit the request on parents' behalf by March 31, 2021.

How do parents whose children are in private education submit documents to the Committee?

Parents whose children are studying in private education must submit the documents set forth below via the Special Education Department, to the email address: vaadatzakaut@tel-aviv.gov.il**.**
Submit the documents in the framework of a request for discussion to the Eligibility and Profiling Committee by March 31, 2021.
Please state the student's name and identity number in the subject line of the email and attach the following documents:

1. Admissible documents on the handicap diagnosis, as set forth in the amendment to the law.
2. Up to date hearing and vision tests (required for the first discussion only).
3. Parents questionnaire.
4. Kindergarten teacher questionnaire (if attending a private kindergarten).
5. Confidentiality waiver form.

- Each document must be saved and attached as a PDF file only.
- The documents will be submitted for you on the Ministry of Education's website.
- After receiving confirmation from the Ministry of Education that the documents are in order, the Special Education Department will send a summons to the Eligibility and Profiling Committee to you by registered mail.
- The summons will be sent to the current address kept by the municipality. In addition, the day before the discussion, a reminder message will be sent to your mobile phone.

We've submitted a request to the Committee. When will the discussion be held?

- Debates regarding children studying in kindergarten and starting the first grade will be held by May 31 each year.
- In extraordinary cases, with the approval of the district director and after consulting the superintendent of Eligibility and Profiling Committees in the district, debates will also be held after the date scheduled to examine the use of eligibility in the current school year.
- The summons to the committee will be sent to your home at least 14 days before the discussion date, by registered mail.. The summons will be sent to the current address kept by the municipality, and the day before the discussion you will be sent a reminder message to your mobile phone. If you have recently changed your address or telephone number, please verify with the Education Service Center that your information is up to date.

What should I know before the Committee hearing?

It is very important to bring the documents you forwarded to the hearing, in case you need to present them during the debate. You may also present other documents to the Committee, as you see fit.
The parents are required to participate in the discussion. The child and other invitees may also be summoned, at the parents' discretion. Divorced parents must arrive together, or one may arrive with a power of attorney from the other parent.

How is the educational setting chosen?

- At the end of the discussion, you will receive the committee's decision regarding the special education services to which your child is entitled.
- Based on this decision, you will be able to choose the type of setting for them, and accordingly, the best assignment for the needs as diagnosed and profiled will be determined (see: 'assignment to a setting' below).
- If the Eligibility and Profiling Committee finds, based on the opinion of caregivers, that there is genuine concern of harm to your child or to others in the educational setting that you have chosen, you will be summoned to another hearing in which you will be given an opportunity to express your position. If after this discussion there is still a disagreement on the educational framework, the matter will be brought for discussion by the Special Education Division A Director at the Ministry of Education or her deputy.
- Decisions by an Eligibility and Profiling Committee are valid for the subsequent school year.

How is assignment to a setting determined?

- Boys and girls who have been found eligible for special education services and whose parents have chosen a special education class or a mainstream school will be assigned by an assignment committee in the Special Education Department.

- Children who have been determined by the committee as being eligible for a solution in a mainstream class in a mainstream education setting or whose parents have chosen a mainstream education setting for them will be assigned by the Education Service Center.
- To complete the service, you must send to the service center a kindergarten enrollment form or school enrollment form according to the contact information provided below.
- Students whose eligibility has been determined by the Eligibility and Profiling Committee and whose parents chose their setting type for them will announce their choice to the committee using the parent choice form. You will receive the form at the time of the discussion by the committee, and you must fill it in and forward it within 14 days of the day you received the committee's notice, through the educational framework or to the secretariat of the Special Education Department, by email or by fax (using the contact information below). Parents may change their choice until June 25. After this time, the choice of setting may not be changed.
- If you choose to switch your choice from a mainstream education setting to a special education framework, or vice versa, your assignment will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.
- If notice of the parents' choice has not been received within 14 days, the committee will establish the appropriate type of educational setting, and will prioritize integrating students into mainstream education.

How can I appeal a decision of the Eligibility and Profiling Committee contested?

The objection committee operates pursuant to the Special Education Law and is held at the Ministry of Education. The committee is headed by the district director or his representative. The committee only discusses parents' objections to decisions made by an Eligibility and Profiling Committee.

If you wish to object to a decision of the Eligibility and Profiling Committee before an objection committee, you must submit your request to the Ministry of Education using the online form.

Can I submit a late request?

As of April 1, 2021, no new requests to convene an Eligibility and Profiling Committee for the 5782 (2021-2) school year may be submitted.

Each debate on a request submitted after the deadline must be authorized by the District Exceptions Committee to convene the Eligibility and Profiling Committee outside the normal schedule.

Parents who wish to send materials to convene a committee (whether through the department or through the educational staff) – All requests that are submitted late will be discussed in August and only after the assignments of all children in the district who have been through committees on time, according to existing standards, have been completed.

Submission of a request to the Eligibility and Profiling Committee after the deadline – Requests will be forwarded to the Special Education Supervision unit at the Ministry of Education, through the staff of the kindergarten or school.