

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction
Exceptional Children Division
301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2825

Initial Non-Public Schools' Exceptional Children Program Approval Process

The steps outlined below will be used for the initial evaluation and approval of Exceptional Children Programs in North Carolina non-public schools.

1. Each non-public facility must be registered with and recognized as a non-public school by the Division of Non-Public Education, before special education program approval may be initiated. Contact the Director, Division of Non-Public Education, 1309 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1309, (919) 733-4276.
2. The Division of Non-Public Education should be advised that you plan to seek Exceptional Children Program approval.
3. Upon recognition as a non-public school by the Division of Non-Public Education, all Exceptional Children Programs for which approval is desired are eligible for evaluation. Contact the Director, Exceptional Children Division, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-6356, (919) 807-3969.
4. The Exceptional Children Division will provide the non-public school with copies of the *Prerequisites for Exceptional Children Program Approval, Non-Public Schools' Program Self-Assessment Document*, and the *Non-Public Schools' Exceptional Children Program Onsite Review Activities*. Following the review of these documents, an on-site visit will be scheduled.
5. After the on-site visit, the non-public school will receive written notification of its Exceptional Children Program approval status.
6. Exceptional Children Program approval is for a five-year period, pending annual program self-assessment reviews. A review team will conduct an on-site visit every 5 years, in combination with annual program self-assessments during the intervening years, to evaluate the program.
7. Exceptional Children Programs are provided at two types of "Non-Public Schools":
 - a. A "Special Non-Public School" offers special education and related services to exceptional students only.
 - b. A "General Non-Public School" offers a general and comprehensive education program to regular students, and also has a program or curriculum component for students with disabilities.

8. Both types of non-public schools can be subcategorized as follows:
 - a. Day Program only, Residential Program only, or Combination Day and Residential Program; and
 - b. Full-time Program, Part-time Program, or Combination Full and Part-time Program.
9. Public education funds may not be used for students with disabilities in unapproved programs. Funding shall be available only from the date of Exceptional Children Program approval.
10. Upon request, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and other State Education Agencies (SEAs) will be advised of the current Exceptional Children Program approval status of specific non-public schools.