

## MEMORANDUM

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA 2004), public schools are responsible for identifying children and/or students ages birth through age 21 with disabilities who attend public school programs, private schools, home school or are birth to pre-kindergarten who may be eligible for special education and related services:

Referrals to special education are typically made when there are educational related concerns regarding overall development, severe underachievement, and/or social/emotional problems. If you feel your child may be disabled and eligible for special education and related services in any of the disability categorical areas recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education, please contact your local school district for referral information. In order to qualify for services, students must meet eligibility criteria established by the State of Minnesota. Services are provided to eligible students through consultation and/or direct instruction at a public school building in your public school.

If you have questions concerning special education services, please feel free to call the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative office at 320-269-9243 and ask to speak to the Special Education Coordinator or the Director of Special Education assigned to your public school district.