



## Merakey Autism Center, Louisiana Frequently Asked Questions

Visit us online at <https://www.merakey.org/services-education-autism.html>

Send an e-mail to [CapitalRegion@merakey.org](mailto:CapitalRegion@merakey.org) | Call us at 225-960 -7689

### **Q: What ages does Merakey provide services?**

The Merakey Autism Center provides services to children, adolescents and adults, ages 2-21 years old.

- Special Education School for Students with an Autism Diagnosis, ages 5-21 years old
- Bee Me Center for Childcare, Developmental Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness, ages 3-5 years old
- Therapy Services such as ABA, OT or Speech, ages 2-20 years old

### **Q: Who is on the Merakey team?**

The Merakey Autism Center team consists of special education teachers, early childhood education teachers, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and Registered Line Technicians.

### **Q: What if I am satisfied with my child's school placement, but he/she just needs ABA, SLP or OT therapy hours? Can Merakey help?**

Yes. Your child does not need to be enrolled in our school program to receive speech therapy, occupational therapy or ABA therapy services at Merakey.

### **Q: How is the Merakey School set up? Are there grades?**

The Merakey School is separated into elementary, middle and high school, and each special education student is assigned to a classroom based on their age and developmental level.

### **Q: Does my child have to have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to attend the Merakey School?**

Yes. An IEP is required and will be followed to ensure your child is receiving educational benefit.

### **Q: Does my child have to be enrolled in the public-school system to attend the Merakey School? What is the process to enroll?**

Yes. However, every case is different. Even if your child is not enrolled in the public-school system, we encourage you to reach out and see if we can meet your child's needs. The process to enroll is as follows:

**Step 1:** Collaborate with your student's home school district

**Step 2:** Notify Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP)

**Step 3:** Complete Merakey Intake Packet

**Step 4:** Submit IEP, Evaluation Report (ER)/Re-Evaluation Report (RR) and medical records.

**Q: What if my family lives out of state? Can Merakey contract with an out of state public school district?**

Every situation is different, so Merakey encourages you to contact us and discuss your unique situation to assist in determining options for your child.

**Q: Will my child be able to return to their home school district?**

Yes. A least restrictive environment plan is developed upon enrollment in the Merakey school. This plan is discussed and revised, as appropriate, at each subsequent IEP meeting.

**Q: If my child graduates from Merakey will he/she receive a High School Diploma?**

Your child will be eligible to walk with their high school graduating class and receive a Louisiana High School Diploma upon completion of the state's educational requirements.

**Q: Does my child need to be toileting independently?**

No. The teachers and aides working for the school are willing and capable to assist at all levels of toileting and hygiene.

**Q: Will transportation to and from the school be provided?**

Yes. Arrangements for daily transportation will be made through the student's home school district.

**Q: Does Merakey accept insurance?**

Yes. Merakey accepts most commercial insurance as well as Medicaid for all therapy services. If we do not currently accept your insurance, we will contact your insurance company to discuss possible options. We can accept out of state insurance, but not Medicaid that is out of state.

Please visit the Merakey website to learn more [www.merakey.org](http://www.merakey.org)