

Evaluation

Parents who suspect that their child has a disability may request in writing a multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE) at any time. Send requests to the school principal or special education director of your school district. Keep a copy of your written request for your files.

If you request an independent evaluation after the MDE has been completed, the school district must either ensure that it is provided at public expense or initiate a due process hearing.

EVALUATION MATERIALS MUST:

1. Be culturally or racially sensitive.
2. If possible, administered in the student's native language or other mode of communications.
 3. Address all areas of suspected disability.
4. Provide information to determine the child's educational needs.
5. Be technically sound to assess cognitive, behavioral, physical and developmental factors.

PURPOSE OF AN EVALUATION (MDE)

The purpose of the MDE is to help determine:

1. The child's disability.
2. Educational levels and needs of the child.
3. Whether the child needs special education and related services.
4. Whether any additions or modifications are needed to participate in the general curriculum.

MDT (Multidisciplinary Team)

The MDT must complete the evaluation within 60 calendar days (with the exception of summer break) of the receipt of your written consent. The Team is not required to have a formal meeting, although a parent can request that one be held.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES DO NOT RESULT FOR EVERY STUDENT WHO GOES THROUGH THE MDE PROCESS. The MDE process:

1. Provides information about the suspected disability.
2. Recommends whether a student is exceptional.

ER (Evaluation Report) summarizes evaluation results. The final typed report:

1. Recommends whether the student is exceptional and meets the criteria of eligibility.
2. Indicates the basis for recommendations for the educational program of the student, regardless of whether the student is found to be exceptional.
3. Is circulated to all Team members at least 10 school days prior to the IEP meeting (this can be waived by parents).
4. Each member of the MDT, including the parent, signs the ER indicating agreement or disagreement. Members may submit a separate statement presenting conclusions if they do not agree with the recommendations in the ER. These become a part of the ER.

REEVALUATION

Reevaluation must:

1. occur in PA at least every 3 years for all disability categories with the exception of Intellectual Disability, which must occur every 2 years.
 2. inform parents.
3. be completed within 60 calendar days (with the exception of summer break).

