

Public School Evaluations

A school district's evaluation is generally first performed to determine if a child is eligible for special education services (34 CFR 300.531). This initial evaluation must assess the child *in all areas of suspected disability* and must provide information relative to the child's developmental history and educational progress.

Once a student is deemed eligible for special education services, a reevaluation must occur at least every three years, or more frequently if warranted, or when a parent or teacher requests it. School districts must review the child's Individual Education Program (IEP) each year and determine using objective criteria if the child is making measurable academic progress. Each identified child must also be evaluated prior to any termination of special education services and notice must be provided to parents when such evaluations are to occur.

When conducting an evaluation the school district must use a variety of test measures, involve parents in the evaluation process and determine the child's ability to benefit from the general education curriculum. The evaluation may not rely upon any single measurement or procedure as the sole criteria for decision making and recommendations must be based upon technically sound tests (34 CFR 300.532).