



# What does a special education evaluation mean?

This tip sheet explains what it means when the school suggests a special education evaluation for your child and provides information to help you decide if you want your child to be evaluated.

## Reasons for an evaluation

Your child's school may suggest that your child receive a special education evaluation if they have concerns about their progress. This may also mean that your child has a disability that is making it harder for them to learn the same way as their classmates. If your child has a disability, they may qualify for special education services. Read our tip sheet "What is Special Education" to learn more on this topic.

## Evaluation criteria

Before your student can receive special education services, the school must evaluate them to determine if they qualify based on educational criteria. The evaluation will not include medical criteria. For example, if after evaluating, the school determines your child qualifies under the educational category of Specific Learning Disability, it means they qualify for special education, not that they have a medical diagnosis of a learning disability.

## Granting permission

Lastly, the school must get your written permission to proceed with a special education evaluation. Once you give your permission, the school will do a comprehensive evaluation to determine if your student qualifies for special education services. You will be part of the process to plan that evaluation, receive the evaluation results, determine eligibility, and develop the Individualized Education Program (IEP).

***If you have more questions about special education or the evaluation process, call PACER and ask to speak with an Advocate.***