

## Evaluations for Services

Last updated May 2024

### What are IEP evaluations?

Evaluations are assessments and tests completed by a student to determine their needs in school. There are many assessments a school can offer, determined by the IEP team, which includes the parent or guardian. Schools must receive consent from the guardian or adult student for initial testing for a student with a suspected disability, to conduct 3-year reevaluations, or any time a guardian or member of the IEP team needs further information for the student's IEP.

### How do I request an initial IEP Evaluations?

To request an initial IEP evaluation, inform your student's teacher or administrator about your concerns. For best practice, request the evaluation for an IEP via email. Once a parent requests an IEP, an IEP meeting will be held to talk about the student's concerns and talk about what evaluations if any are needed. Sometimes, further evaluations are not needed if the IEP team has enough data to determine IEP placement. It is best practice for the IEP team to use current evaluations to determine placement.

For example, if the student has an outside evaluation report from a year ago, the team may take it into consideration and do their own assessments to view the most up-to-date information. For more help requesting an evaluation, view DRI's Sample Letter on requesting an evaluation or reevaluation.

### What are 504 evaluations?

504 evaluations are evaluations a school or 504 team can do to determine how a 504 plan will benefit the student. To request an initial 504 evaluation, inform your school 504 coordinator, administrator, or ask your student's teacher who you may speak to regarding accommodations for your student's disability. The school team may require an evaluation to show how disability substantially limits one or more major life activities. Evaluations may be done

by the school team every three years to determine or reevaluate the accommodations in a 504 plan.

### **What if my student has a new diagnosis?**

If your student has a new diagnosis from a health care provider, inform the IEP team, 504 team, or school. If the doctor has recommendations to better help your student bring this to the team so they can add the necessary accommodations and/or modifications. For an IEP, a diagnosis is not required to qualify for services. Most 504 plans are initiated by the school after they are aware of such diagnosis to determine either a health care plan or accommodations to help the student's education. Inform the IEP or 504 team of any and all concerns you have about your student.

### **What if I have an outside evaluation?**

If you have an outside evaluation from a doctor, be sure to provide this to your student's school if there is a recommendation regarding their education. For example, if a mental health evaluation was made about your student who has a hard time going to school due to their mental illness, the doctor may have made recommendations for goals to set that better help them attend school. The team must consider this evaluation. This evaluation could help develop a plan for your student to be successful in school and get them more supports for their needs.

### **What is an IEE?**

An IEE is an Independent Educational Evaluation. IEE's are not completed by the school, but are conducted by an outside agency. If the guardian or adult student disagrees with the school's evaluations, they can request an IEE at the school's expense, subject to prior approval. It is best practice to have the provider attend or make a recommendation for the upcoming IEP meeting after the IEE to help advocate for special education services.

**Legal and Confidentiality Notice:** Communication of information by, in, to, or through this website or use of it (1) is not provided in the course of and does

not create or constitute an attorney-client relationship, and (2) is not intended to convey or constitute legal advice from a qualified attorney.

To Apply for Services at Disability Rights Idaho, fill out [an online intake here](#), or call us at: 866-262-3462.