

**Evaluation Instruments for Possible Handicapping Conditions**

Evaluations shall be conducted to avoid discrimination on the basis of race, gender, culture, or severity of disability (See Policy #1161, Non-Discrimination). All verbal evaluation materials and instructions for evaluations shall be conducted in the student's natural language or other mode of communication unless it is infeasible to do so.

All district employed or contracted evaluators assume the responsibility for the validity, reliability and appropriateness of the testing materials used. These tests have available clear specification of the samples used for item validation and test standardization. The inclusion of a small number of minority group members in a norming sample do not necessarily make the test "fair" to members of that group. General population norms and references shall be clear and specific.

Evaluation materials shall have been recommended by their producers for a specific purpose and administered in conformance with the instructions provided by the tests' producers. However, when a standardized administration operates to the detriment of the student's performance, the tests shall also be adapted, as needed, and both standardized and adapted results shall be reported.

All evaluation materials shall be designed to assess specific areas of educational need. There shall be clear specification of peripheral demands made by the tests such as language requirements in math tests, time limits, and background or vocabulary assumed in tests of reasoning. Evaluations shall include, where appropriate, psychomotor assessments, sensory development assessments, adaptive behavior scales and vocational evaluations.

Evaluation materials administered to a student with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills shall yield results which accurately reflect the student's aptitude or achievement level or other factors they purport to measure. This may require highly specialized and adapted equipment and techniques, especially for students with severe and multiple disabilities.

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