

Basic Rights in Special Education

Cohasset Public Schools
Fall 2024



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Understanding Special Education Basic Rights

Our goal today is for:

- Parents to understand their rights regarding special education,
- Families and school personnel to collaborate, and participate as knowledgeable partners.

Special Education Information

Special Education Law

- Federal: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (reauthorized in 2004)

<https://www.congress.gov/108/plaws/publ446/PLAW-108publ446.pdf>

- Massachusetts: Chapter 71B (Chapter 766) 603 CMR 28.00

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr28.html?section=all>

Special Education is:

- Specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of an individual in order to access and make effective progress in the general curriculum, and/or related services necessary to access and make effective progress in the general curriculum

Eligibility for Special Education Services

Eligibility for Special Education:

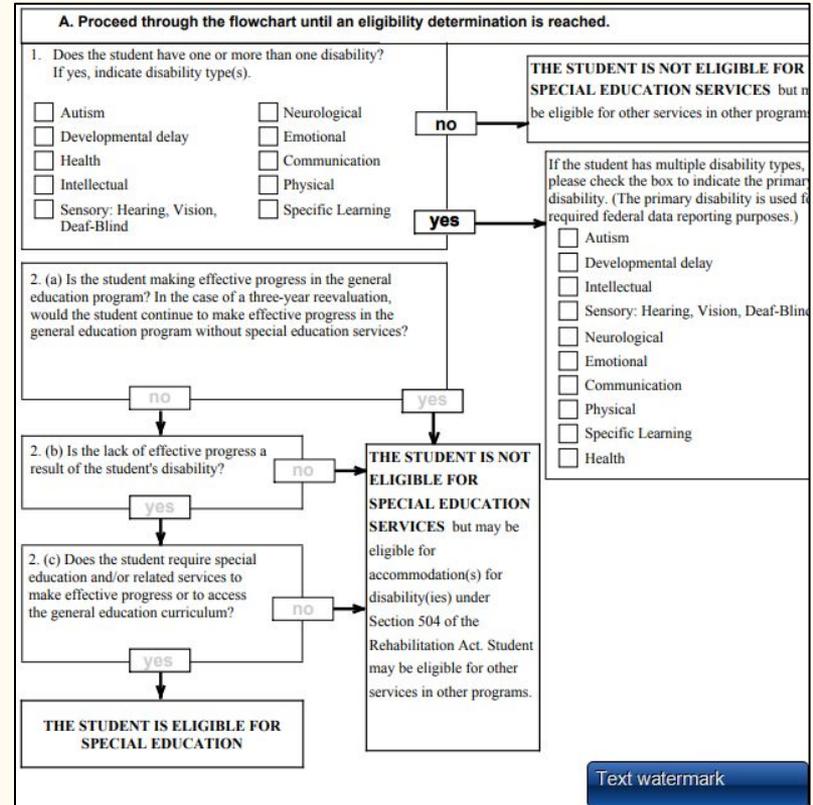
(All 3 Must Be Met)

1. The student has a diagnosed disability

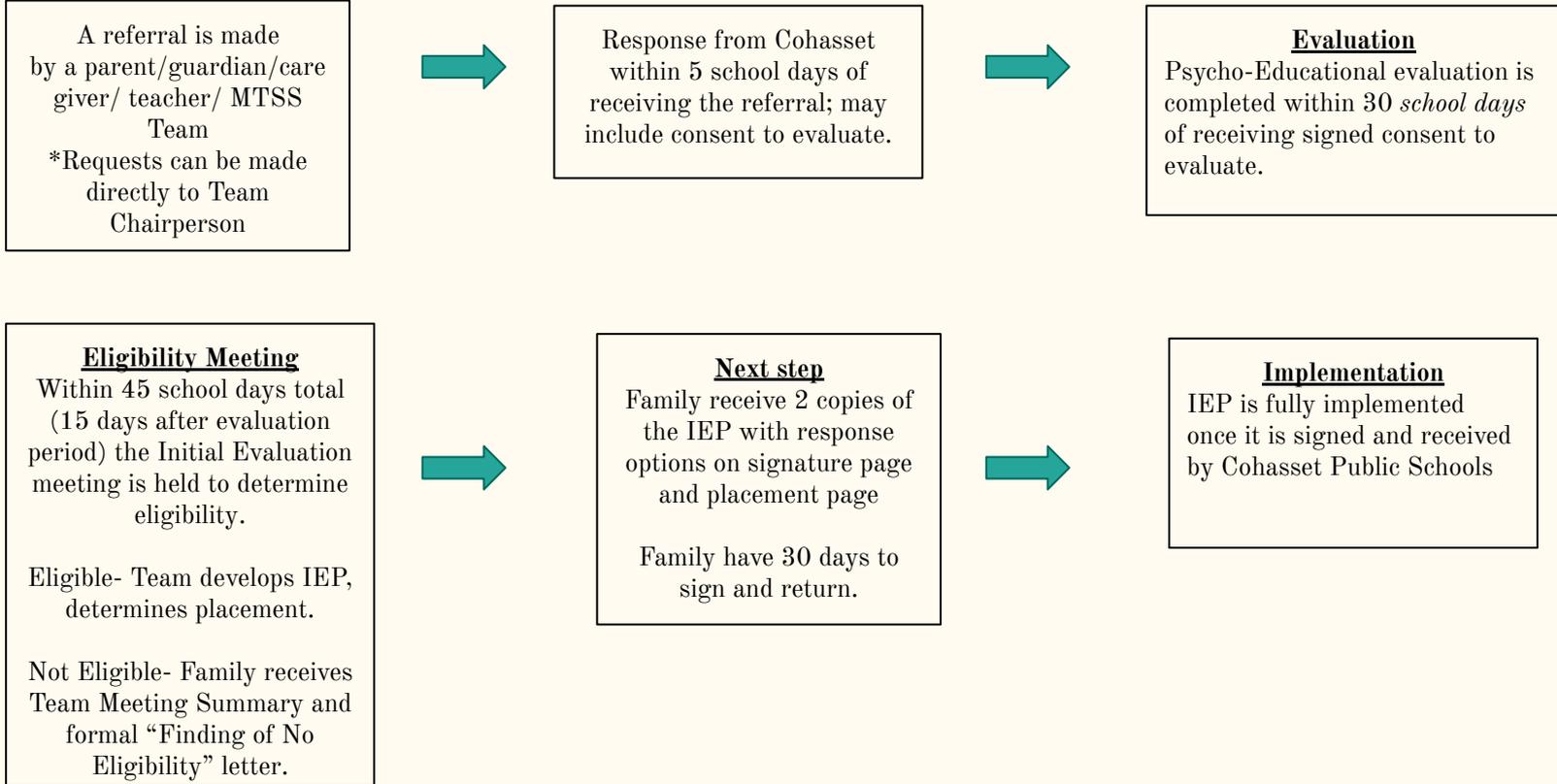
[Disability Definitions and Related Links](#)

2. The student is not making effective progress as a result of their disability

3. The student requires special education services and/ or related services to access the curriculum or make effective progress. to do so.



The Evaluation Process:



Family Participation

- Parents are equal partners! Team consists of parents, general education teacher, special education provider, student if 14 or older, and others based on need/discretion of family or school
- Student driven IEP Plans/ Transition Plans
- Cohasset Public Schools is participating in The Advancing Parent / Professional Leadership in Education (APPLE) Institute through the Federation for Children with Special Needs. We are looking for ways to further engage families in the IEP Process!

Basic Principles of Special Education

Participation

Parent and student participation is paramount, as students are the focus of special education.

It is the obligation of the district to ensure participation.

FAPE

Is Free and Appropriate Public Education Services are provided by the public school district at no cost to families with services to enable progress including all levels PK-22, and extra curricular.

Evaluation

Initial Evaluation
Reevaluation (3 Years)

Variety of assessment tools and strategies

Independent Evaluation

Basic Principles of Special Education

IEP

Individualized
Education Program

Student and Parent concerns

Current level of performance
(Academics/ Behavioral/ Social
Emotional, Communication,
Other areas

Measurable goals

Transition Planning

LRE

Least Restrictive
Environment

Focus on inclusion in the
general education
environment

Procedural Safeguards

Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards

Written notice
Consent

Stay put rights
BSEA/PRS

Adherence to timelines
Confidential records

Modifications

What is Instructional Modification?

A modification means a change in what is being taught to or expected from the student.*
Modifications are designed by special educators, but can be provided by general educators, paraprofessionals or special educators.

The 3 types of modifications:

- Content - the level or intensity of the information may be altered
- Methodology/Delivery of Instruction -a specialized approach to provide the skills needed to progress
- Output– how will the skill be demonstrated (?)

Tip: If content is heavily modified, child may have difficulty passing MCAS or experience greater challenges accessing curriculum in higher grades.

Resources

Team

Special Education Teachers
Team Chairperson
Director of Student Services

SEPAC

Advises the district
Meets regularly to participate in
planning, develop, and
evaluation of programming

Parents Procedural Rights

Safeguards Emailed to families
on 9/3/2024 and linked below:

[Procedural Safeguards Notice](#)

APPLE Partnership- Action Planning

This year the work will focus on:

1. Sending a survey to families to gain more information on availability for meeting days/ times.
2. Establishing a time to work with Cohasset IT Department to streamline technology and accessibility challenges.
3. Creating a SEPAC pamphlet to support growing the group.