



What to Expect During a Special Education Evaluation

A Family Support from Oakland Schools

The school has proposed an evaluation, what can I expect now?

When a school determines that it is appropriate to move forward with an evaluation, they are required by law to inform the parent of the details of the evaluation they will conduct and secure consent for the evaluation. Documentation of consent is required before the evaluation can proceed.

Once consent is received by the school, they have up to 30 school days to complete the necessary evaluations, convene an IEP team, determine eligibility and, if appropriate, develop an IEP and present the parents with an offer of free appropriate public education (FAPE).

What should I be doing while the school is completing evaluations?

The time between consenting to the evaluation and the first IEP team meeting is a good opportunity to do some preparation and learning. Two useful resources from the Michigan Alliance for Families and the Center for Parent Information and Resources can help you understand what to expect.

- [Special Education Eligibility and Evaluation](#)
- [Initial Evaluation and Reevaluation](#)

Will every evaluation result in eligibility for special education?

The purpose of every evaluation is to determine two things: the student has a disability as defined by The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and requires specialized instruction. Both of these criteria must be present for a student to be determined eligible for special education.

An IEP Team meeting has been scheduled, now what?

Knowing what to expect is important and being prepared is important. Here are some excellent resources from The Parent Center for Information and Resources that can help:

- [Meetings of the IEP Team](#)
- [Developing Your Child's IEP](#)
- [Content of the IEP](#)

Additional Resources

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| Local School Contact Name: Nic Farquhar , Director of Student Services Phone: 248-837-8054 Email: nicole.farquhar@berkleyschools.org | Oakland Schools Special Education Compliance 248-209-2552 |
| Michigan Alliance for Families (http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/) State Offices: 800-552-4821 Oakland County Offices: 248-557-5070 | The Center for Parent Information and Resources (http://www.parentcenterhub.org/) |
| The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) | Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) |
| Michigan Department of Education – Office of Special Education 888-320-8384 | |

NOTE: While the content of this page reflects general aspects of the law regarding students with disabilities as of the date of its creation, it is not intended to constitute or serve as legal advice for any particular student scenario. Schools should consult legal counsel for advice with regard to specific situations