

From Referral to Eligibility: A Deeper Dive

A WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES AND PROFESSIONALS

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Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)

- ✓ Statewide nonprofit
- ✓ **Virginia's Parent Training & Information Center**
- ✓ **Empower** families and youth with disabilities
- ✓ Free and confidential
- ✓ Learn about navigating special education and disability service systems
- ✓ Birth to age 26
- ✓ Assistance available in 300+ languages



Targeted outreach areas

Bullying Awareness
Family Engagement
Military Outreach
PEATC En Español
Early Childhood
Transition to Adulthood

PEATC Services

Direct Assistance



In-Person
Zoom
Phone
Email

Trainings



Workshops
Courses
Virtual and In-Person

Resources

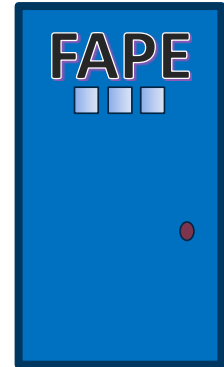
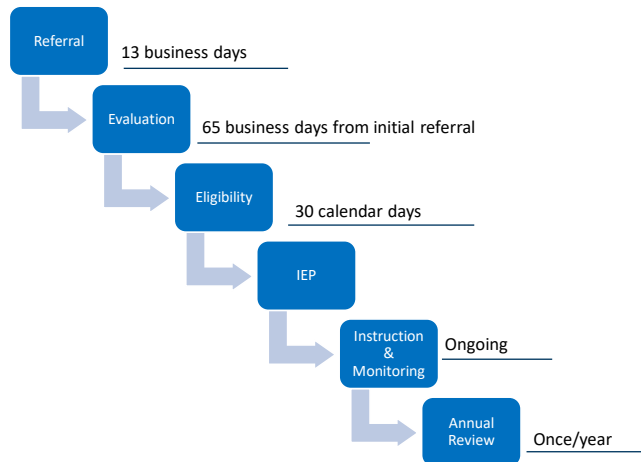


Factsheets
Email Templates
Portfolios
Resource Documents
Online Transition Guide

Goals

- ☐ Provide you with information about referrals, evaluations, and eligibility
- ☐ Gain a better understanding of the timeline
- ☐ Learn more about eligibility meetings
- ☐ Share information on Independent Education Evaluations (IEE)

Special Education Process



What is a Referral?



Requesting an Evaluation



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What Happens After a Referral is Made?

1

Agree to start the
eligibility evaluation
process

2

Send to the School
Based Team (SBT)
to review records
and respond

3

Deny the request

The School-Based Team



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Referral to Evaluation Timeline



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“Days” 3 Ways

BUSINESS DAYS

- Monday-Friday
- State and federal holidays are not included, unless specifically designated

CALENDAR DAYS

- include weekends and holidays

“Days” without a modifier

- Refers to *calendar* days.



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3 BUSINESS DAYS

For the SpEd Administrator to decide to evaluate, send to school-based team (SBT), refuse to evaluate.

10 BUSINESS DAYS

For the SBT to decide to review for consideration and decide whether to evaluate or not

3 BUSINESS DAYS

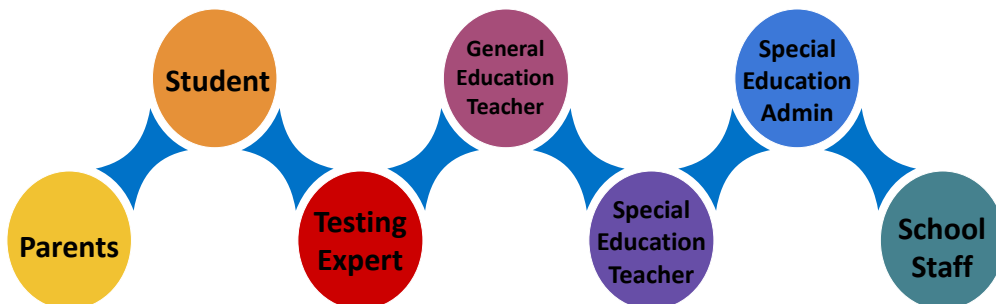
For the SBT to return their decision to the SpEd Administrator

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THE ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

The Eligibility Team



Assessments

Areas of Assessment

- Health
- Vision
- Hearing
- Social & emotional
- General intelligence
- Academic performance
- Communication
- Medical
- Motor abilities
- Adaptive behavior

Quote from the regulations

No single measure or assessment can be used as the sole criterion for determining whether a child is a child with a disability and for determining an appropriate educational program for a child.

8VAC20-81-70 (C)(11)



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Schools Have Told Parents....

- ✓ “He has a score of 84....it’s ok, he’s just a little behind.”
- ✓ “While his scores are a little below average (76), he’s not that far behind. Maybe he should apply himself more.”
- ✓ “We don’t feel the need to test for speech delay because we know she has CP. It shouldn’t impact her education.”
- ✓ “Well for what she has deficits in, she makes up for in other areas.”

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Eligibility Meeting

Evaluation Reports

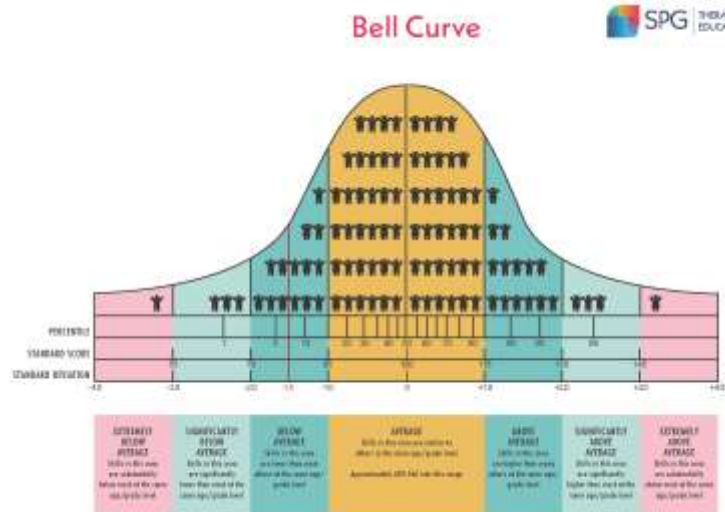


Image from: <https://content.acsa.org/bell-curve-graphic>

Prepare For The Meeting

- ✓ Ask for evaluation results and reports
- ✓ Review reports
- ✓ Write down any questions you may have

IDEA Disability Categories

- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Deafness
- Developmental Delay *
- Emotional Disability
- Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment (including blindness)



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Document the Eligibility Decision



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Found Eligible? Next Step-> Develop IEP

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Parents who disagree with the results of an eligibility determination can appeal the decision.

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Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)

Reasons Parents Request IEEs

- ✓ Evaluation was incomplete, not based on sound methods or testing strategies
- ✓ The evaluator was not qualified
- ✓ The data that were collected were not accurate
- ✓ Child does things the evaluator says he cannot or vice versa
- ✓ Private therapist has a different opinion

Schools and IEEs

- ✓ Can agree to the IEE(s) at public expense
- ✓ Go to due process to show that their evaluation is appropriate*
- ✓ Results of an IEE must be considered, but the school is not required to implement its recommendation

Triennials and Reevaluations

Reevaluation Process

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Thank you!



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