



INFORM. EDUCATE. ADVOCATE.

PARENT INFORMATION CENTER OF DELAWARE

UNDERSTANDING EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

AT A GLANCE

Before your child receives special education services, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that he or she have an evaluation. An evaluation includes information from parents and school staff, and may include specific tests. The results of an evaluation will be used to determine if your child needs special education and related services to help them in school. You must give your consent **in writing** before the first evaluation can take place. The evaluation:

- Must be done by trained and knowledgeable persons
- Must be in all areas related to the suspected disability
- Is more than just one assessment procedure
- Must be in your child's native language unless clearly not possible to do so
- Must not discriminate against your child

Here are some questions parents can ask school staff about evaluations:

1. Why do you want to evaluate my child?
2. What do you think you may find from the evaluation?
3. What kind of tests will you give?
4. In what areas will my child be tested?
5. How do you know that the tests do or do not discriminate?
6. What will happen if my child is NOT evaluated? Will he/she still get some help for the problems you identify?
7. By what date will you give me a written copy of the evaluation results?
8. What steps should I take if I do not agree with the evaluation results?

If your child has behavior problems at school, these questions may be helpful:

1. Does my child need a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)? Why or why not? (*a Functional Behavioral Assessment, or FBA, looks at why a child is having behavior problems in school*).
2. What are you doing to help my child learn new behavior skills, and how can I help implement these strategies at home?

PIC is a statewide non-profit organization with a mission to improve health and educational outcomes for children and youth by empowering them, their families and the professionals who serve them. For more information visit www.picofdel.org or call 302-999-7394.





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If you disagree with the school district's evaluation results, you have a right to:

- Have someone outside the school system evaluate your child—this is called an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)
- Help select the person or persons who will be doing the testing
- Have the testing done at no cost to you or your family*

* The school district must either have your child evaluated at no cost to you, or show, at a hearing, that its evaluation is appropriate.



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