

Section 504 Evaluation Procedures

If the school suspects a student has a disability, then parental notice is given and an individual evaluation is conducted. The following are some considerations for meeting 504 evaluation requirements:

1. The evaluation team must be knowledgeable about the student and the disability and be familiar with the evaluation data and placement options.
2. Each evaluation should be tailored to the specific needs of the student.
3. The parents need to be notified and provide written consent before the evaluation is conducted.
4. Tests and other evaluation materials should be validated for the specific purpose for which they are used and administered by trained personnel in conformance with the instructions provided by their producer.
5. Tests and other evaluation materials include those tailored to assess specific areas of educational need.
6. Tests are selected to ensure that when a test is administered to a student with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the results accurately reflect whatever the test is designed to measure.
7. In interpreting evaluation data and in making placement or accommodation decisions, a school should draw on information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, interest inventories, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior.
8. A reevaluation should be conducted before making any significant change in placement. A reevaluation procedure consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is one means of meeting this requirement.

The school may refuse to conduct an evaluation, but it has the obligation to inform the parents of the reasons for the refusal and their right to file a grievance, contact the Office for Civil Rights, or request a due process hearing.