

Special Education Eligibility Meeting

Did You Know?!

The school district must hold an Evaluation/Eligibility Meeting within 35 school days after the parent has signed consent for an evaluation.

Did You Know?!

The Evaluation/Eligibility Meeting determines whether a student qualifies for Special Education Services and Related Services.

Did You Know?!

Evaluation procedures can be found under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 392-172A-03020.

Did You Know?!

An Evaluation/Eligibility Meeting is different than an Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meeting.

Important: A parent may ask for draft copies of evaluation reports and the data that was collected **prior** to the Evaluation/Eligibility Meeting. The request should be in writing with a specific date when needing the information. Parents should ask for the information as an email attachment to share with others if needed.

Three Conditions

Students determined eligible for Special Education Services and Related Services must meet the following three conditions:

- The student must have a disability(ies) in one of the identified disability categories
- The student's disability(ies) must adversely impact their educational performance
- The student needs specially designed instruction

Disability Categories (Qualifying Categories)

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 392-172A-01035 Child with a disability or student eligible for special education, for descriptions.

- Autism
- Deaf-blindness
- Emotional/behavioral disability
- Hearing impairment (including deafness)
- Intellectual disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Other health impairment
- Orthopedic impairment
- Specific learning disability
- Speech or language impairment
- Traumatic brain injury
- Visual impairment (including blindness)
- Developmental delay (three through eight)

Did You Know?!

A parent does not need to obtain or provide the school district with a medical diagnosis in order for a student to qualify for Special Education. A school district may request a parent to provide any medical information they have and, a school district could request a medical evaluation, at no cost to the parent.

Did You Know?!

The parent needs to read the copy of the draft evaluation reports and write up the questions they have before the meeting. Bring a copy to the meeting. An **example** of an **Evaluation/Eligibility Meeting form** is available on the www.sealk12.org web site.

The parent should not have received the Evaluation Summary sections of the Evaluation Document for Eligibility Decision or Recommendations to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team. Receiving this can question 'predetermination', decisions made about the student without parent input and refusing to consider parent input.

Did You Know?!

A parent should not sign the Evaluation/Eligibility document until they have a final copy of the Evaluation Document. A parent can write in:

- "Attendance Only", and sign their name, or,
- "I disagree with the eligibility decision" and sign their name