

Special Education Triennial Reevaluation

Factsheet for Virginia's Parents

What is the Triennial Reevaluation?

If your child receives special education services, their school is required to reevaluate them for special education eligibility and IEP planning purposes at least every three years. This process, called a **triennial reevaluation**, helps determine if your child still qualifies for special education and related services and whether their educational needs have changed. As a parent, you play an important role in this process. In addition to determining if your child remains eligible for services, triennial evaluations are important to:

- Ensure your child receives the **appropriate support and services** based on their current needs.
- Identify academic, functional, or developmental changes that may require updates to the **Individualized Education Program (IEP)**.
- Provide updated information to teachers and service providers to **improve instruction and support**.
- Help parents and the school team **understand your child's progress, document strengths, and any new challenges** that may have emerged.

Reevaluation can be requested sooner: If you or your child's teacher believes a reevaluation is needed before the three-year mark due to new or significant changes in ability or performance, you have the right to request one. Schools are not required to conduct reevaluations more than once a year.

What is Required?

- **Every three years:** Schools must conduct a reevaluation unless you and the school agree in writing that it is not needed.
- **Review of existing data:** The IEP team, including you, will review classroom performance, standardized test scores, teacher reports, related service provider notes, and previous evaluations to determine if further testing is necessary.
- **Parental consent is required:** If the school determines that new assessments are needed, they **must** obtain your written permission before conducting them.
- **No new testing required if agreed upon:** If the IEP team decides that existing information is sufficient to determine eligibility and guide services, they may conclude the reevaluation without new testing—but only with your agreement.
- **Results must be shared with you:** The school must provide a written report detailing the findings and their impact on your child's services.

Special Education Triennial Evaluation

What Can Parents Do During This Process?

1. **Be actively involved** – Attend the reevaluation meeting, share concerns, and ask for explanations about decisions being made.
2. **Ask questions** – If you don't understand why certain assessments are (or aren't) being done, ask for clarification.
3. **Request additional assessments if needed** – If you feel that specific areas of need or disability are not adequately evaluated, request further testing.
4. **Carefully review the results** – Be sure the findings accurately reflect your child's abilities, needs, and progress.
5. **Know your rights** – If you disagree with the results of one or more evaluations, you have the right to request an [Independent Educational Evaluation \(IEE\)](#) at the school's expense.
6. **Understand the impact of the results** – If your child is not found eligible for special education services, ask how their support will continue through **Section 504 accommodations or other interventions and resources**.

What Happens After the Triennial Evaluation?

The IEP team will meet to discuss the results and determine if any **changes are needed to your child's services**. If the evaluation finds that your child is **no longer eligible for special education services**, the school must notify you in writing and explain its decision. Parent consent is required before services are withdrawn. If you disagree with the eligibility decision, you have the right to request an IEE or access dispute resolution options, e.g., state complaint or due process hearing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/RESOURCES:

[8VAC20 81 70. Evaluation and Reevaluation](#)

[Evaluation & Eligibility for Special Education & Related Services | Virginia Department of Education](#)

[Evaluating School Aged Children for Disability | Center for Parent Information and Resources](#)

[Sec. 300.303 Reevaluations | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

[What is a reevaluation for special education | Understood.com](#)

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