

Evaluation Meetings:

A Parent / Guardian's Guide to Success

Video Transcript

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Host: "Hi there! Today we're exploring evaluation result meetings in special education. These meetings are an essential part of determining how best to support students with unique learning needs. We'll cover what these meetings entail, who attends, and what happens afterward."

Host: "Evaluation meetings are a crucial component of the special education process. They assess whether a child qualifies for special education services and help identify their unique educational needs. This is where parents or guardians, educators, and specialists come together to review evaluation results and discuss the child's strengths and areas where support is needed."

Host: "Evaluation meetings are typically held after the initial assessment or reevaluation is complete. They can also occur if there are significant changes in a student's performance or needs. These meetings ensure that the educational plan stays relevant to the child's development."

Host: "Key attendees include the child's parents or guardians, special education teachers, general education teachers, school psychologists, and other relevant specialists. The child may also be involved, especially if they're transitioning to higher grades, to provide input on their educational experience. Once students reach "transition age" 14 years old, they are encouraged to not only attend their IEP meetings but also be an active member and share their opinions about their plan."

Host: "During the meeting, the team reviews the evaluation report, discusses the child's current performance, and determines eligibility for services. If eligible, they'll start developing or updating the Individualized Education Program, or IEP, which outlines specific goals, accommodations, modifications and supports the child needs."

Host: "If the child is eligible, the team works collaboratively to draft the IEP, detailing educational goals, accommodations, modifications and the services your child will receive. This plan is revisited and adjusted annually or as needed to ensure it continues to meet the child's needs."

Host: "If the child is not eligible for special education services, the team may discuss alternative supports that the school can provide, such as a 504 Plan, which can provide accommodations

in the general education setting. Parents or guardians can also request an Independent Educational Evaluation if they disagree with the school's findings."

Host: "The best way to prepare is to read through the evaluation report if the school has provided a draft prior to the meeting and to jot down any questions or concerns you might have about the findings or recommendations. Bringing a friend or advocate can also be helpful for support, especially to take notes or share insights during the meeting. If you are inviting anyone else, make sure to let the school know prior to the meeting."

Host: "Evaluation meetings can be an emotional experience, especially if you're learning that your child has a disability. It's natural to feel overwhelmed, but remember, your child is the same amazing person they were before the meeting began. This process is just the first step in getting the support they need to thrive. You are a very important member of the team and if you do not agree with the plan, you can and should share your views. Rest assured, you'll receive a copy of the final report, so there's no pressure to remember everything discussed during the meeting. Thank you for being such a devoted advocate for your child's future success!"

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