

# Referrals:

## A Parent / Guardian's Guide to Success

### Video Transcript

[Start of transcript]

Host: "Hello, everyone! Understanding the special education referral process can be crucial in advocating for your child's educational needs. Today, we'll explore what a special education referral is and guide you through the process, step by step, so you know exactly what to expect."

Host: "A special education referral is a request to evaluate a child to determine if they have a disability that affects their learning and if they are eligible for special education services. It's the first step in ensuring your child gets the tailored support they need to succeed in school."

Host: "As a parent, you have the right to request a special education evaluation if you suspect your child has a disability. You can make a referral by writing a formal request to your child's teacher, school counselor, or the special education department at your child's school. Be sure to include your concerns and any evidence or observations that support your request as well as any documentation from outside evaluations that have been done, if relevant."

Host: "Referrals can be made by parents, teachers, school counselors, or other school staff who have observed potential learning challenges in a student. It's a collaborative effort to identify students who may benefit from additional support. Before the school determines if a special education evaluation is needed, the school's child study team usually refers them for some pre-referral interventions to see if the reason for referral can be addressed through general education. These referrals may last 6 or more weeks. If your child is receiving interventions, you can expect to be kept informed about your child's progress."

Host: "As part of the referral process, once the pre-referral interventions are complete, the school will review the effectiveness of the interventions and decide whether to proceed with an evaluation. If an evaluation is warranted, you'll be asked to provide consent. The evaluation process will involve various assessments to understand your child's needs. After the evaluation, a meeting will be set up to discuss the results and determine eligibility for special education services."

Host: "As a parent, expect clear communication from the school about the referral process, timelines, and any necessary meetings. You'll be involved every step of the way, from initial evaluation to discussing the results and planning next steps if services are needed. Remember, your insights and participation are vital in supporting your child's educational journey."

Host: "Navigating the special education referral process can seem complex and time consuming. The entire process from interventions to completing the evaluation can take months, but you're not alone. The school team is here to support both you and your child. By working together, we can ensure your child receives the necessary resources to thrive. Stay proactive and confident—your advocacy makes a difference. Thank you for watching!"

[End of transcript]