

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION MEETINGS

The Purpose of the Eligibility Determination Meeting

The Eligibility Determination Meeting is held once all of the additional information deemed necessary at the domain review meeting has been collected. If no additional information was needed, the Eligibility Determination Meeting may occur immediately following the Domain Review meeting. If additional information was deemed necessary at the Domain Review, the evaluation process could take several weeks prior to the Eligibility Determination Meeting being scheduled (Federal and State Law allows up to 60 days). The Eligibility Determination Meeting is the setting where a team of staff members and the parent(s) determine whether or not the student is eligible for special education services based upon the information gathered through the evaluations.

The following are the 14 special education eligibility categories:

- a. Autism (AU)
- b. Deaf-Blind (DB)
- b. Deafness (DF)
- c. Developmentally Delayed (3-9 year old only) – (DD)
- d. Emotional Disability (ED)
- e. Hearing Impairment (HI)
- f. Cognitive Disability (CD)
- g. Multiple Disabilities (MD)
- h. Orthopedic impairment (OI)
- i. Other Health Impaired (OHI)
- j. Specific Learning Disability (LD)
- k. Speech and Language (SL)
- l. Traumatic Brain Injury (TB)
- m. Visual Impairment (VI)

What Happens at the Eligibility Determination Meeting?

At the Eligibility Determination Meeting, many parents may be surprised at the number of school professionals at the table. This can be intimidating, but parents should be aware that each individual in the room has some special input regarding their child and is there with the child's best interest in mind.

If at any time you do not understand what is being presented, please feel free to ask the team members for clarification. The parent(s) is a valuable team member and contributes information about the student from a unique perspective. We value and welcome your input during the meeting.

Each professional who did an assessment will give a verbal report regarding the results of their evaluation. After all reports have been given, the team will discuss under which of the previous listed disabilities the child may be eligible for special education services. The team, including the parent(s), will go through the disability criteria as an administrator documents how the disabling condition(s) affect the student's ability to learn (if a disabling condition is found to exist). Additionally, a discussion and documentation of the student's unique educational needs will take place. If the student is found eligible for services, the staff will use this information to write goals and recommend services. The parent(s) will receive a copy of all reports and paperwork from this meeting.

What happens after the meeting?

One of two things will happen after the eligibility determination meeting:

- If found to be ineligible for special education services, the team should discuss accommodations that can be implemented in the regular education classroom for the student based on strengths and weaknesses determined through the evaluation process.
- If the child was found to be eligible for special education services, the team will hold an Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting immediately following the Eligibility Determination meeting. During this meeting, the team will discuss appropriate goals for the student based upon the evaluations and recommend services. Parental consent will be needed in order for the services to be given.

Following the reports from the professional who have evaluated your child, it will be determine whether or not your child is eligible for specialized educational services. If your child is found eligible, you will be asked to sign initial consent for your student to receive the services recommended.

“Parents are an integral part of the school team.”

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