



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY BULLETIN

IDEA Evaluations: Medical Information

June 2021

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) provides this guidance on local education agency (LEA) responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) related to evaluation procedures to determine eligibility for special education and related services. This document generally constitutes nonregulatory guidance and does not impose any additional requirements beyond those included in applicable federal and local law and regulations.

Under IDEA, LEAs must conduct a full and individualized evaluation for each child suspected of being a child with a disability.¹ Such evaluations must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of IDEA and District of Columbia law, regulations and policy, including the use of a variety of assessment tools and strategies to collect relevant, functional, developmental and academic information about the child, including information provided by the parent.² A single measure or assessment shall not be used as the sole criterion for determining whether a child is a child with a disability and the content of his or her individualized education program (IEP).³ The child must be assessed in all areas related to the suspected disability, including, if appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status and motor abilities.⁴

The IEP team and other qualified professionals must review existing evaluation data on the child, including evaluations and information provided by the parents of the child, including but not limited to medical documentation, current assessment data, student observations and observations by teachers and related services providers. On the basis of that review, and input from the child's parents, IEP teams must identify what additional data, if any, are needed to determine whether the child is or remains a child with a disability, and his or her educational needs.

Although neither IDEA nor District of Columbia law require a medical assessment as part of an evaluation, an LEA may need to ensure a medical assessment is conducted to accurately and appropriately determine a child's eligibility under IDEA or their specific educational needs.⁵ If the group of persons conducting the evaluation determine that medical services or a medical assessment or evaluation provided by a licensed physician are necessary as part of the evaluation to determine if the child is a child with a disability or to

¹ 34 CFR 300.301(a)

² See generally, 34 CFR 300.304 and OSSE's [IDEA Part B Initial Evaluation/Reevaluation Policy](#)

³ 34 CFR 300.304(b)(2)

⁴ 34 CFR 300.304(c)(4)

⁵ See generally, [Questions and Answers On Individualized Education Programs \(IEPs\), Evaluations, and Reevaluations](#), Question B-2 (USED, September 2011); Letter to Williams (1994).

determine the educational needs of the child, the LEA must arrange for such assessments, which must be free of charge to the child's parents and not contingent upon health insurance coverage. If a parent provides a previously obtained medical assessment or input from the child's medical professional, the group of persons conducting the evaluation should ensure appropriate documentation of the medical evaluation by uploading it into the student's file in the Special Education Data System (SEDS) and documenting consideration of the information and input as part of its determination of eligibility or the child's educational needs.

Please direct any questions regarding the content of this document to OSSE's Division of Systems and Supports, K-12, Office of Special Education at OSSE.DSEPolicy@dc.gov.