

I Think My Child is a Unique Learner. What's Next?

Step 1: Referral

To begin the process, a child needs to be referred for testing.

- A school based team can identify a child for testing.
- A parent can ask either verbally or in writing, to have their child tested.
- A child can be referred by RTI (Response to Intervention)
- A child might be identified through Child Find Testing.

Step 2: Evaluation

Your child will take a series of simple educational tests to determine if they need support and what kind of support they need.

- Testing is done by the School Psychologist.
- Takes place during the school day.
- They may ask you to share information from your health care provider(s).

Step 4: You Are Lucky!

Your child has a team of professionals that will help them in their educational career from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Each year, the team will meet to discuss the IEP or 504 Plan and make any adjustments necessary. Your child's plan is bound by law and can be updated whenever its needed. These documents will follow your child if you move or when they go off to college.

Step 3: A Plan for Success

Your child might need some help to do their best in the classroom. There are two different documents that let teachers know how to best help a student learn successfully. They are an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) and a 504 Plan. The data from your child's evaluation will help determine which is best for them.

What's an IEP?

- An IEP is a document that helps kids who have learning or behavioral differences.
- The document has a set of learning goals and accommodations that help a student learn successfully.
- Governed by a federal law called The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) that makes sure that all kids get a good education no matter their learning challenge.
- A student's teachers and specialists work together to set goals based on your child's test results.

What's a 504 Plan?

- A 504 Plan is a document that tells teachers to provide a child with supports that level the playing field for a child to learn.
- It helps kids with physical disabilities and health needs.
- Governed by a federal law called the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that makes sure that anyone with a disability is able to access everything in public life like transportation, school, sidewalks, etc.
- A medical diagnosis is needed to provide a student with a 504 Plan.

