



My child isn't doing well in school, what do I do?

1. Pin point specific areas and skills in which you see your child struggling.
2. Gather data to support your concerns such as work samples, report cards, disciplinary actions, attendance, charts of your observations of behavior, teacher comments, how long your child spends on homework, etc.
3. Meet with your child's teacher to gather their input. Ask questions that give you more specifics i.e. "in a 45 minute lesson, how many times is my student off task?" or "What skills does my student need to do better on tests?"
4. You or your school may request an SST (Student Study Team) meeting to discuss your concerns. This is a general education process to problem solve concerns regarding a particular student.
5. If actions resulting from the SST meeting are not sufficient to meet your child's needs, you can make a written request for an evaluation to determine if your child may be eligible for special education and an Individual Education Plan or for a 504 Accommodation Plan. You do not need to have an SST meeting to make a request for evaluation.
6. If you make such a request, the school must respond to you within 15 days by either developing an assessment plan or notifying you in writing of their reasons for not doing so. (See Matrix information packet on Assessments)

If the school decides they don't think an evaluation is needed, your options are:

1. Ask what changes can be made in general education to better support your student;
2. Give it more time and keep gathering data. Things may get better. If they do not, make another evaluation request and include your new data.
3. if you disagree, let them know and proceed with conflict resolution at either the informal or formal levels. (See Matrix information packet Resolving Disagreements)

If the school will proceed with an evaluation:

1. Before signing the evaluation/assessment plan, review the proposed tests with someone who can help you decide if all areas of possible need are being assessed.
2. Put in writing your request to receive copies of any assessment reports before the meeting that is held to discuss them (an IEP meeting).
3. if your child is eligible for special education services, start learning about this process. (See Matrix information packet IEP The Individual Education Plan) Parent Advisors on our Helpline can guide you.

CAUTION: if your child is struggling with school work and if you are involved in helping your child so much that you are doing work "for" your child, the school may not see the struggle in homework as they may be seeing your work and not that of your child.



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