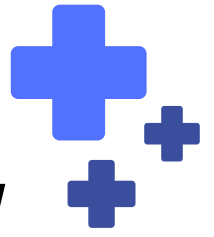




MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS VS EDUCATIONAL ELIGIBILITY



I have a diagnosis What does that mean for school?

- A diagnosis does not guarantee special education services.
- A disability under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) must impact a child's learning.
- A school district is not qualified to diagnose.



Medical Diagnosis

- Does not have to affect school performance in order for medical professionals to diagnose
- Are considered ongoing unless symptoms change and then the diagnosis can change.
- Treatment is prescribed due to the needs of the child and addresses the medical issues.
- Medical professionals will conduct an evaluation to determine a clinical diagnosis

	Clinical Diagnosis	School Identification
What it refers to	A medical condition (including ADHD) or learning "disorder."	A learning "disability" or health impairment (including ADHD) that's identified after a school evaluation.
Who makes the determination	A doctor, clinical child psychologist, pediatric neuropsychologist, speech-language pathologist, or other qualified clinical professionals.	An Evaluation Team at school.



What is Educational Eligibility

“Specially designed instruction at no cost to the parents. To meet the unique needs of a child with a disability, including instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals, and in institutions, and other settings and instruction in physical education.”

[Learn more](#)



Does the student have, or do you suspect, a disability?



Does the disability adversely affect the students educational performance?



Does the student require specially designed instruction?

The three prongs of special education



I believe my child's diagnosis is impacting their education.

What should I do if I suspect a disability that requires special education.

Write a letter to the principal of the school where their child attends and share their concerns of why they suspect their child may have a disability.

Parents should also, in their letter, request a meeting with school personnel to sign a “request for evaluation” form and set a date for an evaluation planning meeting.



Remember

- Trust your instincts - you understand your child the most - continue to advocate for them.
- Keep the lines of communication open between your medical team and educational team.
- Continue to learn about your child's diagnosis.

More on Medical Diagnosis vs Educational Eligibility

Read our more in-depth resource on Medical Diagnosis VS Educational Eligibility. This newsletter provides valuable insights and more details on the topic.



To access active links, simply scan the QR code with a mobile device if you have a printed copy of this document.

