

FREQUENTLY ASKED SPECIAL EDUCATION QUESTIONS

- 1. My child has a diagnosis. When can he get an IEP?**
 - a. To be eligible for special education and related services, a student must have one of the disabling conditions AND need special education services as a result of that condition. Although a student may have a diagnosis of ADD, if he is performing and functioning appropriately in the educational setting, he will not be deemed a “child with a disability”.

- 2. We have recently obtained a private evaluation and the doctor indicated my daughter is eligible for an IEP. When can we have that set up?**
 - a. Private evaluations are always considered during initial evaluations to determine eligibility but a private evaluation cannot replace the evaluation completed by the school. Schools are required to conduct evaluations to determine eligibility before special education services can be provided. Many private evaluations are very thorough and include numerous standardized tests. However, they usually don’t include observations done in the student’s regular education learning environment, assessment data collected at the school, teacher reports, or Response to Intervention data, which all must be considered before making an eligibility determination.

- 3. My student meets the criteria for a disability but was not placed in special education. What happened?**
 - a. Most likely, your student demonstrated one of the disabilities (such as a Physical Disability due to ADD), but did not show a NEED for special education or specially designed instruction. If your student has A’s and B’s, is proficient on state assessments, is making adequate progress in the curriculum without specially designed instruction, or is not receiving any intervention level instruction, they are most likely not demonstrating a need for special education services. To be eligible, a student must be a child with a disability AND demonstrate educational needs that cannot be met by regular education.

- 4. Who do I contact if I have concerns about my child?**
 - a. If you have concerns, whether academic, behavioral, or other, always start by contacting your student’s teacher(s).

- 5. Who do I contact to start the RTI or 504 process?**
 - a. To start the RTI process, the first step is to contact your student’s teachers. Teachers are always the first step as they are the people who start Phase 1 of RTI and present the student to the RTI team. If you have specific questions regarding how the RTI or 504 process works, contact our Intervention Specialist, Sandy Stanley or Malcolm Moore, the SSS Team Coordinator.