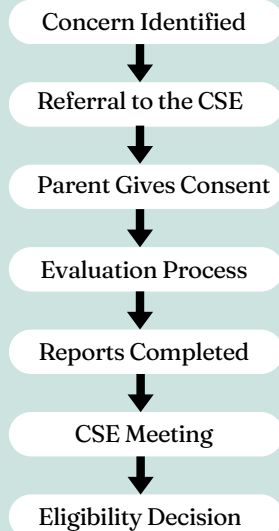


WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE EVALUATION?

The CSE process usually follows these steps:



Does my child qualify for special education?

During the evaluation, the team gathers information from many different sources—not just one test.

Parents can ask questions and share information at every step.



No single test determines whether a child qualifies for special education.

What Information Is Used During the Evaluation?

The CSE looks at many kinds of information before making recommendations

Evaluation information may include:

- Parent interview and family input
- Teacher reports
- Individual testing
- Classroom observations
- School records and progress
- Communication and language information
- Social and emotional functioning
- Adaptive/daily living skills
- Cultural background

Language, Culture, and Family Information

Assessments should be administered in the language or manner most appropriate for your child whenever appropriate.

Families can share important information about:

- Languages spoken at home
- Languages used at school
- Educational history
- Communication style
- Strengths, interests, and routines

Before determining eligibility for special education...

The CSE considers whether differences in language, culture, or educational experiences may affect a student's performance



Your perspective helps the team build a more complete understanding of your child.

THE CSE MEETING, QUESTIONS, AND PARENT RIGHTS

What Happens at the CSE Meeting?

At the CSE meeting, the team reviews the evaluation results and discusses your child's strengths, needs, and progress.

The team may discuss:

- Why your child was referred
- What the evaluations showed
- What teachers and parents reported
- Your child's academic, social, emotional, behavioral, adaptive, and communication needs
- What supports may help your child make progress

Questions Parents May Wish to Ask

- Why was my child referred?
- What strengths did you observe?
- What did each assessment tell us about my child?
- How was my child's language and cultural background considered?
- Were assessments given in the language or manner most appropriate for my child?
- What supports are available if my child is not eligible?
- How will progress be monitored?
- How can I support my child at home?

Know Your Rights

You have the right to meaningful participation in the evaluation process.

This means:

- You may ask questions.
- You may share information about your child.
- You may request interpreter services if needed.
- Important information should be provided in your native language or preferred mode of communication when required by law.

Why was my child referred?

A referral means the school has noticed that your child may benefit from additional support.

A referral may happen because of concerns in one or more areas:

- Learning and academics
- Communication and language
- Social relationships
- Emotional well-being
- Behavior or attention
- Motor skills
- Daily living/adaptive skills



A referral does NOT mean:

- Your child has a disability.
- Your child will automatically receive special education.
- A decision has already been made.

A referral simply begins the evaluation process so the school can better understand your child's strengths and needs.



A referral allows the CSE team to learn more before making any eligibility decisions.

Understanding the Special Education Referral and Evaluation Process



A Parent's Guide to the Committee on Special Education (CSE)

This brochure explains the special education referral, evaluation, and eligibility process.

It also describes how parents can share information, ask questions, and participate meaningfully in the CSE process.

RESOURCES AND CONTACT

Helpful Resources

Families may contact the school or district CSE office with questions about the referral, evaluation, eligibility, or IEP process.

Possible resources include:

- School psychologist/Child's teacher
- Committee on Special Education office
- NYSED Parent's Guide to Special Education
- NYSED Procedural Safeguards Notice: Rights for Parents of Children with Disabilities
- NYSED Parents' Bill of Rights for English Language Learners and Multilingual Learners
- NYSED ELL Parent Hotline: 1-800-469-8224

Parent Checklist

Before the CSE meeting, you may wish to:

- ☐ Bring any outside evaluations.
- ☐ Write down your questions.
- ☐ Share your child's language history.
- ☐ Tell the team about your child's strengths.
- ☐ Share concerns you have noticed at home.
- ☐ Ask for clarification if something is unclear.

Questions?

Contact your school psychologist or CSE office:

School Psychologist:
Committee on Special Education:
School Phone:
Email: