



Parent Guide

Understanding Educational Evaluations



This handout explains the major areas evaluated during a comprehensive school assessment.

Academic Assessment

What it tests: Reading, writing, math

Why it matters: Shows whether the child meets grade-level expectations

Looks for: Dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, or general learning delays

Psychological / Cognitive Assessment

What it tests: IQ, memory, attention, processing speed, problem-solving

Why it matters: Identifies learning disabilities or processing disorders

Speech & Language

What it tests: Understanding language, expressing ideas, social communication

Why it matters: Language delays can look like learning problems

OT (Fine Motor & Sensory)

What it tests: Writing, hand strength, cutting, sensory regulation

Why it matters: Motor or sensory needs can directly affect learning and behavior

PT (Gross Motor)

What it tests: Balance, endurance, coordination

Why it matters: Helps determine if physical challenges impact school access

Social-Emotional / Behavioral Assessments

What it tests: Emotional regulation, behavior patterns, anxiety, ADHD traits

Why it matters: Emotional or behavioral challenges can limit learning

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)

What it tests: What triggers behaviors and which supports would reduce them

Why it matters: Leads to a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)

Assistive Technology

What it tests: Whether tools (speech-to-text, audiobooks, etc.) would help

Why it matters: Can give students equal access to learning

Note: Evaluation procedures and timelines differ by state. Please refer to your state's education agency.