

How to Respond When Schools Say No

Parents may sometimes hear 'no' during the advocacy process. This guide provides calm, productive ways to respond and continue advocating effectively.

Stay Calm and Gather Information

- Ask the school to explain the reason for the decision.
- Request documentation supporting the decision.
- Take notes during meetings and conversations.
- Ask for Prior Written Notice (PWN) when applicable.

Ask Clarifying Questions

- What data supports this decision?
- What alternatives were considered?
- Can the team revisit this concern later?
- What additional evaluations may help?

Document Everything

- Follow up conversations with email summaries.
- Keep copies of evaluations and meeting notes.
- Maintain organized communication records.

Continue Advocating

- Request another meeting if concerns remain.
- Consider bringing an advocate or support person.
- Review procedural safeguards and parent rights.
- Focus on collaboration while remaining persistent.