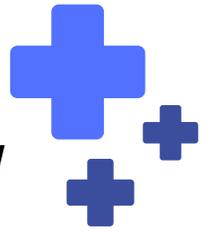




# MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS VS EDUCATIONAL ELIGIBILITY



## 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
<b>What it refers to</b>	A medical condition (including ADHD) or learning "disorder."	A learning "disability" or health impairment (including ADHD) that's identified after a school evaluation.
<b>Who makes the determination</b>	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.

