

Frequently Asked Questions for Nonpublic School Staff

In the table below, you will find answers to questions frequently asked to IU 26 staff and contractors.

A detailed listing of FAQs related to the IDEA Equitable Participation provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education can be found by visiting the [Questions and Answers Regarding Equitable Participation](#) (hyperlink) on the PDE website.

1. How do I refer a student for a potential evaluation?

Nonpublic School staff may refer a student by completing the [EP Evaluation Request Form - Private School Students](#) (hyperlink).

2. Are there any considerations to keep in mind prior to referring a student for evaluation?

School teams should refer to the Nonpublic School Child Find Referral Matrix in Appendix D before referring a student for a special education eligibility evaluation. The parent / guardian and school will be asked to be involved with the evaluation and provide their input.

3. What do I need to provide when referring a student for evaluation?

Please include the best contact information for the parent and school, along with a detailed explanation of why you believe this student needs an evaluation.

4. Who is the designated point of contact to discuss the evaluation process?

After completing the EP Evaluation Request form, an IU 26 staff person may be in touch with any questions. If there are no questions, IU 26 will assign a contractor to work on the evaluation. Questions can be directed to ossequitableparticipation-request@philasd.org

5. What is the process?

Once IU 26 receives a completed google evaluation request form, IU 26 will validate the information to ensure the student is eligible for an evaluation (based on the school they attend). Then IU 26 assigns a contractor to the evaluation. The contractor will reach out to the parent / guardian to explain the process and to obtain consent to move ahead with the evaluation. Once consent is obtained, the evaluation process will begin. There will be an evaluation meeting at the end of the process to discuss everything with the parent / guardian, and school contacts. You can also review the process flow chart in appendices B and C.

6. How will principals know about the testing of eligible students?

With parent / guardian consent, the contractor will reach out to the school to collaborate and obtain information about the student.

7. Is there a guarantee that the SDP will not persuade parents to be enrolled in a

public school?

If the parent / guardian would like an offer of FAPE, the SDP will provide an offer. It is fully up to the parent / guardian to decide what is best for their child.

8. How were the vendors selected?

The vendors went through a formal RFP process, following SDP/IU 26 procedures.

9. Will there be an outreach person from the SDP to present this information to the nonpublic principals?

IU 26 staff will present about Equitable Participation and Child Find annually at a meeting with nonpublic school leadership. Informational brochures from PATTAN as well as IU 26-specific materials will also be provided to all nonpublic schools to share with parents.

10. Will principals and/or the student's teacher be included in the parent meeting when results are ready?

School staff are welcome to attend the Evaluation Meeting, at the parent / guardian's discretion.

11. Will there be a parent advocate? (Advocate for parent) Will that be provided?

Parents and guardians are welcome to bring advocates with them to the evaluation meeting.

12. Who writes the IEP, the contractor, or the SDP?

When a parent/guardian of a student with a disability determination requests an offer of FAPE, the SDP will convene a multi-disciplinary team and provide an offer of FAPE through a contingent IEP (CIEP). The CIEP team members will include the parent/guardian, at least one central office subject matter expert for the disability in question, or the primary disability if multiple, a certified school psychologist, and the Special Education Compliance Monitor from the preliminary school of program placement.