

What can I do if I think my child is in need of special education services?

If you have concerns about your school-aged child we encourage you to speak with your child's classroom teacher and/or guidance counselor. It is very important that you can articulate your specific concerns so that the staff member can assess, discuss and make the appropriate recommendations. The school psychologist who assigned to your child's building will follow-up with further discussion to assist us in understanding your request, your child's needs and our ability to address those needs. In many cases the initial involvement of the child study team process (grades 9-12) or instructional support team process (grades K-8) is recommended. Both of these processes are an important first step in assessing a student's educational strengths and needs, as well as, providing data for the Multi-Disciplinary Team Evaluation. Parents are encouraged to be active members of these teams. Meetings are held regularly to analyze students' learning difficulties and to develop strategies to help students meet with success in their regular education classes.

If after the discussion with the school psychologist, or after the IST/CST process is complete you and/or the team believe your child may have a disability and would like to pursue the Multi-Disciplinary Evaluation process; we will issue a Permission to Evaluate form. This form will allow us to begin the evaluative processes. This evaluation gathers pertinent information on the child's performance from teachers, counselors, psychologists, and parents and will include, but not be limited to: a comprehensive review of records, intelligence testing and achievement testing.

Information is compiled into a comprehensive evaluation report that includes identified areas of strength and need, as well as, recommendations on the child's eligibility for Special Education Services. This report is presented to the team within 60 calendar days from the date the district receives the signed Permission to Evaluate form. If special education services are recommended the district team will meet within 30 calendar days to develop an Individualized Education Plan.

All information collected is protected in accordance with State and Federal law and by the District's policy on confidentiality of student records.

If you have concerns about the development of your three to five year old child, please call the Chester County Intermediate Unit Early Intervention Office at (484) 237-5000 to request a screening or an evaluation.