



THE SST REFERRED MY CHILD FOR ASSESSMENT. DOES THIS MEAN MY CHILD NEEDS SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES?

Not necessarily- before a student can be assessed for special education services, all possible resources in the general education program must be exhausted. Each district implements this in a different way- meaning that general education supports vary from district to district.

Another option is for the SST to refer a student with a suspected disability to the 504 Team, to determine if your child qualifies for accommodations or classroom modifications under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Known as “a 504 Plan”, these accommodations or modifications are actually part of the general education program. In a similar process, either you or your child's teacher may submit a *written* request to the principal for a Section 504 evaluation of your child. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether accommodations or modifications might be appropriate. You will be asked to give your written consent, and once the assessment has been completed, you will be notified when the results will be shared with you and the rest of the 504 team. For further information on Section 504, you can request a copy of your District's *Section 504 and Students with Disabilities* brochure.

Again, students receive special education services only after all the resources of the general education program have been considered. Sometimes, however, students may require special education and related services in order to access the general education curriculum. Eligibility for special education is determined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team after a student has had a formal assessment.

What are Special Education Services?

A special education service is a type of instruction specially designed to support a student with a disability in accessing the general education curriculum. Students must meet eligibility criteria for one of 13 disabling conditions. However, it is important to keep in mind that a student may not qualify just because they have a disability. Rather, a student must meet eligibility criteria established by law, *and* that disability must have a negative impact on their ability to access the general education curriculum.