

Policy Code 2460: Special Education Location, Identification, and Referral

C. Procedures for Referral

Referral procedures are included in professional staff handbooks and referral forms are available in the Principal's office, the Child Study Team office, and the Office of Special Services.

1. Parental Notification of Referral Procedures

Referral procedures shall be included in Newsletter publication(s) e.g. parent Handbook, newsletter, special education brochure or pamphlet or other school district publication, which shall be distributed to the parent(s). These procedures and publications shall be updated annually and be distributed to the parent(s) and appropriate social service and welfare agencies not later than October 1st of each year.

2. Parent Initiated Referral

When a parent makes a written request for an evaluation to determine eligibility for services:

- a. The written request shall be received and dated by the Office of Special Services;
- b. The written request shall be immediately forwarded to the Office of Special Services/Special Education.
- c. A file will be initiated to include a timeline for processing the referral including the date that initiates the twenty-day timeline for conducting the referral/identification meeting and any forms used to open a case;
- d. Upon receipt of the referral a request for a summary and review of health and medical information regarding the pupil shall be forwarded to the school nurse who will transmit the summary to the Child Study Team (CST);
- e. The Child Study Team will convene a referral/identification meeting within twenty calendar days (excluding school holidays, but not summer vacation) of the date the request was received by the district;
- f. A "Notice of a Referral/Identification Meeting" will be sent to the parent(s);

- g. The notice will contain "Parental Rights in Special Education" (PRISE) Booklet; and
- h. The referral/identification meeting will be attended by the parent(s), CST and regular education teacher.

3. School Initiated Referral

Referral of a pupil may be made by administrative, instructional and other professional staff to determine eligibility for special services when:

- a. It is determined (optional: through the I&RS Committee) that interventions in the general education program have not adequately addressed the educational difficulties and it is believed that the pupil may be disabled.
- b. It can be documented that the nature of the pupil's educational problem(s) is such that an evaluation to determine eligibility for services is warranted without delay.
- c. The I&RS Committee, through in-service training, shall ensure that pupils who may be potentially disabled are referred even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

The following procedure will be followed for a school initiated referral:

- a. A referral to the CST will be completed by the referring staff member;
- b. I&RS documentation (including, but not limited to teacher reports, grades and other relevant data) (optional: the intervention record) shall be forwarded with the referral to the CST along with any other relevant data;
- c. I&RS documentation does not need to be forwarded for direct referral when the nature of the pupil's problem is such that the evaluation is warranted without delay;
- d. The referral should be dated upon receipt by the CST;
- e. A file will be initiated to include a timeline for processing the referral including the date that initiates the twenty-day timeline for conducting the referral/identification meeting;
- f. Upon receipt of the referral, a request for a summary and review of health and medical information regarding the pupil shall be forwarded to the school nurse who will transmit the summary to the CST;

- g. The Child Study Team will convene a referral/identification meeting within twenty calendar days (excluding school holidays, but not summer vacation) of the date recorded on the referral;
 - h. A "Notice of a Referral/Identification Meeting" will be sent to the parent(s);
 - i. The notice shall contain "Parental Rights in Special Education" (PRISE); and
 - j. The referral/identification meeting will be attended by the parent(s), CST and regular education teacher.
4. The district may use community rehabilitation programs approved by the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services or any other State agency empowered to accept secondary level pupil placement according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.7(f)1.
 5. Each evaluation of the pupil requires an assessment to determine appropriate post-secondary outcomes as part of transition services planning.
 6. Each IEP Team member is required to certify in writing whether the IEP Team report reflects his or her conclusions. In the event the IEP Team report does not reflect the IEP Team member's conclusion; the IEP Team member must submit a dissenting opinion in order to ensure the parent(s) is aware of dissenting opinions regarding the determination of eligibility for a specific learning disability.
 7. The parent(s) must receive a copy of their child's evaluation report and any documentation leading to a determination of eligibility not less than ten calendar days prior to the eligibility conference in order to ensure the parent(s) has a reasonable amount of time to review documentation prior to an eligibility conference.
 8. A pupil may be referred directly to the Child Study Team when warranted.

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