

# Teaching PURSUIT OF EQUITY IS Intellectual



## A Parents' Guide To The Evaluation Process

### Steps in the Process for an Initial Evaluation

The school district will get your consent to do the evaluation, and the evaluation will be completed **no more than 60 calendar days** from the day you give the school district your consent.

First, you and the school district will develop an evaluation plan and then the school district will obtain your consent to carry out the plan. Your child's evaluation must:

- Use a variety of assessment methods and activities to gather information about how your child is developing, learning, and functioning. One of these methods will be to use information provided by you;
  - Not use any one measure or assessment as the single reason for determining whether your child is a child with a disability and for determining a proper educational program for your child;
  - Use reliable tests and assessments that show how much your child's intellect, behavior, physical state and level of development each contribute to your child's disability;
  - Use assessment tools that are in your child's native language or other mode of communication and that are given in the form most likely to give accurate information about how your child is developing, learning and functioning (unless it is clearly not practical to do so);
  - Use assessment tools that are unbiased: in other words, given in such a way that they do not discriminate against your child, regardless of your child's cultural background, race or disability;
- Use background information provided by you the parent. This may include any reports from professionals outside the school district;
  - Gather information useful in helping your child progress in the general curriculum, or for preschool children, to participate in typical activities for that age group;
  - Include materials that are intended to show specific educational needs, not simply to measure intelligence.
  - Use tests and assessments only for the purposes they are designed and considered reliable for; and
  - Include tests and assessments given by a trained professional using instructions provided by the tests' creators.

The evaluation must assess all of the areas related to your child's suspected disability, including, if appropriate, the following: health; vision; hearing; social and emotional development; general intelligence; academic performance; communication abilities (listening, speaking and writing); motor abilities (abilities requiring movement and coordination); or aptitudes, achievement level, or other factors when your child has limitations that affect the senses, coordination or speaking.

You also may request that other areas be assessed as part of your child's evaluation.

All parts of the evaluation that you and the school district have agreed to in the evaluation plan, including medical evaluations, are provided by the school district at no cost to you.