

# What Is the Purpose of the 3-Year Re-evaluation?

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IDEA 2004 and the IDEA 2006 Regulations state, “Re-evaluation for students with disabilities must occur once every 3 years, unless the parent and the public agency agree that a re-evaluation is unnecessary.” §300.303(b)(2).

A re-evaluation is similar to the initial evaluation. The re-evaluation must be comprehensive enough to determine whether your child continues to be a child with a disability and needs special education services. Unless you and the school agree otherwise, a re-evaluation of your child’s needs must be done at least every three years. No more than one re-evaluation may occur within a year unless you and the school agree. The re-evaluation process begins with a review of existing data about the child (like LEAP/EOC scores, report cards, and progress monitoring reports) by the child’s IEP Team.

The Team must decide if any additional information is needed to determine if:

- 1) the child continues to have a disability and the child’s educational needs;
- 2) the present levels of academic achievement and related developmental needs;
- 3) whether the child continues to need special education and related services;
- 4) and whether any additions or changes to the special education and related services are needed to allow the child to meet the measurable annual goals in her IEP and to participate, as appropriate, in the general education curriculum.

The three year re-evaluation does not require new testing be completed if the team members feel they can make the required determination with existing data.

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This review does not require permission from the parent nor is a meeting required. ("The group may conduct its review without a meeting." §300.305 (b)). However, the parent must be included in the review.

If the group determines that additional data are needed, then the school system must administer tests and other evaluation materials as needed to produce the data. Prior to collecting this additional information, the agency must obtain your informed written consent. Parents can be asked to waive the three-year re-evaluation, but parents should think very carefully before doing so and/or speak with an education advocate if they are unsure how to respond.

It's important to realize that the three-year re-evaluation meeting is an important milestone for both you and your child. A productive meeting will give the team the best possible chance to determine if your child has actually made progress over the previous three years and how to plan for the future. The data from the evaluations and the specific recommendations based on this data will be critical for your child's success during the next three years.

**TIP:** Think carefully before you agree to pass on ("waive") your child's three-year Re-evaluation. Three years is a long time in the life of a child. Even if the child's disability has not changed, her needs, strengths, and weaknesses may have changed, and those changes may show that the child's IEP should be revised.



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