

Special Education (Chapter 14)

A School Based Evaluation is an educational model of assessment that determines eligibility for special education. Through the evaluation process, a child's learning strengths and needs are identified using a variety of assessment methods, in order to determine a child's individual degree of need for specially designed instruction. Eligibility for special education not only requires that a student demonstrates characteristics of a disability as per Pennsylvania State Regulations for Special Education, but also demonstrates a significant need for supports beyond those available in general education.

There are currently 13 categories of educational disability, including:

- ~ Autism
- ~ Hearing Impairment
- ~ Deaf- Blindness
- ~ Deafness
- ~ Emotional Disturbance
- ~ Intellectual Disability
- ~ Multiple Disabilities
- ~ Orthopedic Impairment
- ~ Other Health Impairment
- ~ Specific Learning Disability
- ~ Speech or Language Impairment
- ~ Traumatic Brain Injury
- ~ Visual Impairment, including Blindness

Gifted Evaluation (Chapter 16)

A gifted evaluation determines eligibility for gifted support services. This comprehensive assessment includes standardized intellectual and academic testing, as well as input and observations gathered from the child's teacher and parent. Regulations have been updated over the past several years, and now include that a student may demonstrate an IQ score at the 98th-99th percentile rank, or, demonstrate other multiple criteria that is indicative of very superior functioning, in order to qualify as a student who is mentally gifted. The NASD has developed guidelines that are in line with Chapter 16 regulations.