

In What Areas Can a Student Be Evaluated?

When a parent signs consent for an evaluation, it is crucial to review the specified areas the school plans to assess to guarantee that all relevant concerns are addressed. Families have the option to request additional evaluations, such as a [Functional Behavioral Assessment \(FBA\)](#), for example.

The following skill areas are commonly evaluated:

FUNCTIONAL	Functional skills are necessary for everyday living, and deficits might show up with tasks such as eating, handling common classroom tools or using the restroom.
ACADEMIC	Testing in specific academic areas can seek information about whether the student might have a Specific Learning Disability, such as dyslexia .
COGNITIVE	Testing to determine intelligence quotient (IQ) scores: verbal IQ, performance IQ, and full-scale IQ. These tests provide important data about a student's strengths and weaknesses and can help the IEP teams make decisions about how to adapt materials for the student.
OCCUPATIONAL AND SPEECH THERAPY	Occupational Therapy and Speech/Language can be included as specific areas for evaluation, if there is reason to suspect that deficits are impacting education.
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING	Many evaluations collect data in an area of education called Social Emotional Learning (SEL), which can highlight disabilities related to behavior, social interactions, mental health or emotional regulation. It's common for parents to fill out an at-home survey as part of an SEL evaluation process.
AUTISM SPECTRUM	Testing can look for disability related to autism spectrum issues, such as sensory processing or social difficulties. Testing in this area can be done regardless of whether there is a medical diagnosis.
ADAPTIVE	How a student transitions from class-to-class or organizes materials are examples of adaptive skills that might impact learning.

Keep in mind that strengths are measured alongside challenges and can provide important details. An IEP should always include statements about what the student does well, and the IEP team uses this information to reinforce and build on strengths throughout the program.

[Learn more about Evaluations for Special Education and Related Services.](#)

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