

How to Leverage Private Evaluations in Your IEP Meeting

A practical guide for turning independent evaluation results into meaningful IEP decisions



The law requires your child's school team to **consider the findings in a private evaluation**.

However, simply handing the report to the team is not enough.

This guide will help you identify important information in the report and use it to guide the IEP discussion.

Step 1: Review the Private Evaluation

1 Start With the Summary
Highlight diagnoses and key statements explaining where your child struggles and where they shine.

2 Review the Scores
Use the provided score charts (or compile a spreadsheet) to look for patterns and disparities in composite and subtest scores.

3 Dive into the Narrative
Highlight the conclusions about strengths, weaknesses, and how they affect classroom performance.

4 Make Your Notes
Create a list of processing deficits and academic areas of need as identified by the evaluator.

5 Check the Recommendations
Highlight instructional method & accommodation recommendations not already in the IEP.

Step 2: Discuss Evaluation with IEP Team

1 Document the Data
Ask the team to include diagnoses and evaluation scores and percentiles that indicate strengths and needs.

2 Ensure Goals Address All Needs
Confirm that the academic needs on your list are addressed with measurable goals.

3 Incorporate Recommendations
Discuss instructional method recommendations (e.g., structured literacy) and ensure all accommodations are included in the IEP.



Parent Tip

Bring your **notes** and a **highlighted** copy of the evaluation to your IEP meeting.

