

@TODAYDATE@

Re: Request for Consideration of School Supports and Interventions for: @NAME@

My child @NAME@ was recently seen at *** clinic on @TODAYDATE@ . My child was seen for a medical diagnosis of ***. I want to request that the educational team convenes to consider the educational impact of this diagnosis and discuss whether additional supports or interventions are needed at school to support my child and if any additional interventions should be implemented.

My child has had the following evaluations***:

Speech Evaluation

OT Evaluation

Psychological Evaluation

DDBP Evaluation

Please contact me at @PARENTPHONE@ to discuss interventions to support my child in school. The best way to contact me is (circle one) text phone call e-mail at (fill in phone number and/or e-mail address):

Thank you in advance for your help. I look forward to working together to improve my child's success in school.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

Relationship to Student

How to Partner with the School When Your Child is Struggling

1. Discuss your concerns with the child's teacher first. Talk to the principal, if needed.
2. Provide the attached letter to a member of your child's educational team (teacher, principal)
3. Attend meeting(s) with the team to discuss supports and interventions. Let the educational team know in advance the best way to contact you and any limitations you have with meeting times. Stay in touch with your child's teachers about successes or struggles you see.
4. If you have not seen any improvement after 6-8 weeks of interventions and your child has not had an evaluation completed by the school, and you feel your child needs additional support, you can request an educational evaluation to see if your child would qualify for an IEP. You can find a sample letter here: [https://www.understood.org/en/articles/download-sample-letters-for-requesting-evaluations-and-reports#Letter template: Request an evaluation](https://www.understood.org/en/articles/download-sample-letters-for-requesting-evaluations-and-reports#Letter%20template%3A%20Request%20an%20evaluation)

Important Things to Know As a Parent

ODE Evaluation Roadmap (timeline and process for educational evaluation and possible IEP)
<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Special-Education/Families-of-Students-with-Disabilities/Sections/Section-1/Evaluation-Roadmap.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

Medical vs Education Diagnosis (a medical diagnosis does not mean your child will need or receive an IEP or educational supports) <https://www.understood.org/en/articles/the-difference-between-a-school-identification-and-a-clinical-diagnosis>

Types of Support Offered: MTSS or IEP &504

MTSS: <https://www.understood.org/en/articles/mtss-what-you-need-to-know>

IEP&504:<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/the-difference-between-ieps-and-504-plans>

Difference between a Medical and an Educational Diagnosis

Information from GuidingBrightMinds.com

A medical diagnosis of a disability does not automatically qualify a child for special education services at their school. For a child to receive special education services at a public school, they must undergo a separate assessment process, and receive an *educational diagnosis*, sometimes called a “school identification”. Educational and medical diagnoses are carried out by different practitioners, have different qualifications, and serve different purposes.

Medical Diagnosis: A medical, or clinical, diagnosis is made by a doctor or other clinician (like a speech-language pathologist, psychologist, etc). The diagnosis is determined from the criteria in a document called the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), which is published and updated by the American Psychological Association. Parents usually pay for the testing involved, or it may be covered by health insurance. The results of the testing will be used to determine treatment plans and next steps for the family and the team of professionals working with them.

Educational Diagnosis: An educational diagnosis is made by a school IEP team (with the parent included). The team may involve the child’s teacher, a parent, a special education teacher, and other relevant professionals from the school who can interpret assessment results. Parents can request assessments from the school, or school staff can request that they be completed. Assessments are completed at school and are free for families. In order to receive an educational diagnosis:

1. The child must meet the criteria for one of 13 categories of disability outlined in federal IDEA law, and
2. The assessments must indicate that the disability has a significantly negative impact on the child’s ability to learn in school (so much so that they will not be able to learn in school without special services)

If a child qualifies for an educational diagnosis of a disability, the IEP team will work together to develop an [IEP](#). The child will receive whatever special services the team determines are necessary for them to participate in school, for free. (This information only applies to students attending public schools. Students at private schools have different rights.)

Sometimes, a child will receive a medical diagnosis of a disability like dyslexia or ADHD. Then, parents may request a school evaluation to see if the child qualifies for special education. If a child doesn’t qualify for an educational diagnosis, they may still be able to get some support and accommodations at school, under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (a federal disability law).