

Is My Child Making Adequate Progress?

Is your classified student failing to make progress even when you receive IEP services? Do you have to wait 3 years to receive new evaluations? No.

All students with IEPs receive evaluations. Parents must give permission for all evaluations to take place. A reevaluation is the opportunity to thoroughly assess the student's individual needs and the continued appropriateness of the special education services that have been provided to the student.

Therefore, a reevaluation of a student (formerly called a "triennial evaluation") must be conducted if conditions warrant a reevaluation, or if the student's parent or teacher requests a reevaluation, but at least once every three years.

Special Education regulations allow parents to ask for reevaluations when necessary. If you want to determine whether your child has made progress, you can request reevaluations each year. (Note that some tests cannot be repeated more often than every 12 months). This way, you can find out each year if your child is making appropriate progress. (see Special Education Regulations of the New York State Department of Education at www.nysed.gov **200.4(b)(4)**).

You may want to ask for a reevaluation in time for the test to be completed and reviewed with you BEFORE your child's Annual Review CSE. Those evaluations can then be formally presented to the whole Committee at the meeting. A good time to ask, **in writing**, would be shortly before the February break, as long as the last evaluations were completed over 12 months ago (otherwise, wait until the year anniversary date). This way, updated testing can begin shortly after school re-opens, and you will have the results before the Annual Review meeting.

Is My Child Making Adequate Progress?

- Any previous evaluations can be requested for re-evaluation. To determine academic progress, request academic achievement testing.
- Ask for the District to use the same test that was previously used so you can compare the results.
- If your child receives related services, like speech, you can ask for evaluations in those areas too.

When the evaluations are completed, make sure you receive the actual evaluation report. It will contain a narrative from the evaluator about how your child approached the testing and if the tester believes the results are reliable. There will be a lot of information about where your child is functioning at this time. **If you don't understand, or if you aren't sure what the testing shows, you don't have to remain silent: ask clarifying questions.**

Make sure you get the STANDARD score in each area. That is what you will need to accurately compare the new scores to his or her last evaluation results. What is a standard score? It shows where your child stands compared to other students his exact same age.

Once the new testing is reviewed at CSE, it should be compared to the old testing. Look for similarities, differences, patterns, and discrepancies.

If your child received higher standard scores than on the previous evaluation, it means at least some progress has been made- but it doesn't necessarily mean adequate progress was made. Your child should be making a year's worth of progress in a year's worth of time.

Is My Child Making Adequate Progress?

For example: if your 5th grade child receives reading services on their IEP because they read on a 2nd grade level- after one year of services, their reading skills should be at least at the 3rd grade level. One year of academic progress for one year of individualized services.

If the standard score your child received is the same as the last evaluation, it doesn't necessarily mean no progress was made. What it likely means is that they are not "closing the gap" between their academic functioning and that of their same aged peers.

If your child received lower standard scores than on the previous evaluation, that is a red flag. It means that despite receiving specialized instruction, they likely have less skills in that particular area than they did prior.

If your child's scores remained the same, or are lower than the previous testing revealed, it's a sign they may need more support in their IEP to help them make appropriate progress.

All this being said, if you believe your child is moving forward well, and you are confident their IEP is helping them make appropriate progress, don't feel like you need to ask for evaluations every year. The CSE is a fluid process and your child's IEP can be amended at any time during their education. Just remember, if you ever do have concerns about how your child is progressing in their education, you can always ask for reevaluations to get a better look at how your child is functioning and to determine the appropriateness of your child's IEP.