

Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA)

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What is a Functional Behavioral Assessment?

- The process of determining why a student engages in behaviors that impede learning and how the student's behavior relates to the environment.
- The results of an FBA form the basis for a behavioral intervention plan (BIP) and/or are utilized in the development of a student's individualized education program (IEP).

When must an FBA be conducted?

An FBA must be considered whenever:

- A student with a disability is exhibiting persistent behaviors that impede his or her learning or that of others;
- The student's behavior places the student or others at risk of harm or injury;
- The Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) is considering more restrictive programs or placements as a result of the student's behavior; and/or
- The student has been suspended or subject to other disciplinary actions and the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability.

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What information is included in an FBA?

The FBA provides a baseline of the student's problem behaviors, across activities, settings, people and times of day, with regard to:

- Frequency (how often a behavior occurs)
- Duration (the length of time the behavior lasts)
- Intensity (how severe the behavior is)
- Latency (how long it takes for a behavior to begin after a specific verbal demand or event has occurred)

What is the FBA based on?

The FBA is based on multiple sources of data including, but not limited to:

- Information obtained from direct observation of the student by school staff.
- Information from the student, the student's teacher(s) and/or related service provider(s).
- A review of available data and information from the student's records.

The FBA shall not be based solely on the student's history of presenting problem behaviors.

How can PARENTS remain involved?

- Parents are legally entitled to provide the school staff with any relevant information to be included in the FBA.
- As required by the requirements in section 200.5(b) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, a parent must provide consent before an FBA is administered.