

Fairlawn Local Schools – Special Education Evaluation Procedures

Fairlawn's procedures are aligned with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-06.

◆ Initial Evaluation

Purpose:

To determine whether a student qualifies as a “child with a disability” under IDEA and OAC, and to identify their educational needs.

Steps:

1. Referral Initiation

- May be initiated by parents, teachers, or other professionals.
- Fairlawn Local School participates in **Child Find**, identifying students ages 3–21 who may need services.

2. Review of Existing Evaluation Data (REED)

- Conducted to determine what additional data is needed.
- Includes academic records, behavior reports, and parent input.

3. Parental Consent

- Required before any formal evaluation begins.
- Parents receive **Prior Written Notice** and **Procedural Safeguards**.

4. Evaluation Timeline

- Must be completed within **60 calendar days** of receiving parental consent.

5. Assessment Tools

- Must be valid, reliable, and tailored to the student’s suspected area of disability.
- These tools include:
 1. Cognitive assessments
 2. Academic achievement tests
 3. Speech/language evaluations

4. Motor skill assessments
5. Social/emotional screenings

6. Evaluation Team Members

- School psychologist
- Intervention specialist
- General education teacher
- Speech-language pathologist (if applicable)
- Occupational/physical therapist (if applicable)
- Parent/guardian
- Other specialists as needed per planning form

7. Eligibility Determination

- Based on data collected and team consensus.
- Must meet criteria under one or more IDEA disability categories.
- If eligible, an IEP is developed within 30 days.

Reevaluation

Purpose:

To determine continued eligibility and update educational needs.

Steps:

1. Timing

- Required at least every **three years**, or sooner if requested.

2. REED (Review of Existing Evaluation Data) Process

- Conducted again to determine if new assessments are needed.
- May result in reevaluation without formal testing if sufficient data exists.

3. Parental Consent

- Required if new assessments are conducted.

- Not required if only reviewing existing data.

4. Assessment Areas

- Must reflect current academic, functional, and behavioral performance.
- May include updated cognitive, achievement, or related service evaluations.

5. Team Review & Eligibility

- Team reconvenes to determine continued eligibility.
- Updates are made to the IEP as needed.

Identification of Specific Learning Disability (SLD)

Required Procedures:

- REED conducted with academic and intervention data
- Identification method selected:
 - ☐ Response to Intervention (RTI)
 - ☐ Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses (PSW)
 - ☐ Ability-Achievement Discrepancy (if applicable)
- Evidence of inadequate achievement documented
- Data showing lack of response to interventions
- Classroom observation completed
- Other factors ruled out (e.g., vision/hearing, lack of instruction)

Team Members:

- School psychologist
- General education teacher
- Intervention specialist
- Parent/guardian
- Additional specialists (if needed)

Identification of Multiple Disabilities (MD)

Required Procedures:

- REED conducted across all suspected disability areas
- Comprehensive evaluation planned (cognitive, motor, communication, adaptive, academic)
- Student meets criteria for two or more IDEA disability categories
- Team documents combined impact on educational needs
- Services coordinated across disciplines

Team Members:

- School psychologist
- General education teacher
- Intervention specialist
- Related service providers (OT, PT, SLP)
- Parent/guardian
- Additional specialists (if needed)

Procedural Safeguards & Documentation

- Parents receive a copy of their rights under IDEA
- All decisions are documented in writing
- Parents may request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)
- Fairlawn may refer students to regional programs (e.g., MRESC satellite classrooms) if needed

[Link to roadmap for special ed](#) (Link downloads a pdf)

☒ Statement of Compliance

Fairlawn Local Schools adheres to all **policies and procedures approved by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW)** and formally **adopted by the Fairlawn Board of Education**. These policies ensure that the district provides a **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** to all eligible students with disabilities, in full compliance with **Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3301-51** and federal IDEA regulations.

Fairlawn's special education framework is designed to uphold procedural safeguards, ensure timely evaluations, and support individualized educational planning, all while maintaining confidentiality and equitable access to services