

## Frequently Asked Questions About Student Evaluations

### **Why is STM requesting that I have my child tested by my local school district?**

- We have implemented various strategies, interventions and resource support, but still need more information in order for your child to consistently find success in his/her daily academic responsibilities.
- The Instructional Support Team (IST) has determined that this is the next step in order for us to meet the specific needs of your child.
- CLIU does not provide testing service to STM as part of their support of nonpublic schools.

### **How do I request testing from my local school district?**

- Write and send a letter (sample attached) addressed to the psychologist and send a copy to the principal of the school your child would be attending.
- Let them know you would like to sign the "Permission to Evaluate" form.
- The district is required to complete the evaluation, and give you a written report within 60 calendar days from the date they receive the "Permission to Evaluate." Keep a copy of all papers you send or sign.

### **How does an evaluation typically proceed?**

- Your request is made.
- The school district presents you with a written evaluation plan ("Permission to Evaluate") listing all testing to be done on your child. This plan should focus on identifying your child's strengths and weaknesses and pinpointing possible learning and other disabilities.
- You approve the evaluation plan (or ask that certain tests or evaluation tools be added and/or others eliminated). This information about specific tests was given to you in the IST meeting at STM.
- You meet with the evaluator to discuss areas where your child seems to be having problems, based on your personal observations, physician reports, and teacher assessments/observations. You can also discuss any concerns you have about the evaluation. Share copies of any information you received at the IST meeting regarding your child's academic performance. This meeting isn't required to take place, but it is recommended.
- The school psychologist evaluates your child.
- You receive a copy of the psychologist's report.

### **What do I do once I receive the evaluation information?**

- Please send a copy to Mrs. Rush for her review.
- We will then schedule another meeting to interpret and discuss the results of the testing.
- Some districts offer to participate in this meeting. Please ask the psychologist who did the testing if he/she would be willing to review the evaluation with us. We can contact him/her with the date and time if it's not already scheduled. Please invite him/her to the meeting if you already have the date and time.

### **What can I do to advocate for my child through this process?**

- Keep open lines of communication with your child's teacher and support personnel.
- You are the expert on your child – share what works for you at home, share what you're observing as your child completes homework.
- Offer suggestions and be open to suggestions.

### **Who can I call with questions about this process?**

- Janelle Rush, Director of Instructional Support at STM  
(610)432-0396 Ext. 2222 or jrush@stmteachers.org

Education Law Center (2006). <http://www.elc-pa.org>

Siegel, Lawrence M. Esq., (2007). *Nolo's IEP Guide, Learning Disabilities, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. Berkley, CA.