

# Understanding the Full Individual Evaluation (FIE)

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# Full and Individual Evaluation

## Understanding the Full Individual Evaluation

A Full Individual Evaluation (FIE) is a detailed evaluation of the student's strengths and weaknesses in several areas: language, health, social, emotional, behavioral, academic, and cognition.

Assessment is a way to make informed decisions by gaining an understanding of a child's strengths and weaknesses. The purpose of an assessment report is to answer the referral question(s) as explicitly as possible. The report should tell the educational story of the child in such a way that the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee can develop and recommend a plan of action that will enable the child make progress in the general education curriculum. A second purpose of the FIE report is to create a record of the assessment for future use.

The Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) tells us that in evaluating students, the school district must use a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information, including information provided by the parents or guardians.



IDEA also states that assessments and instruments should be selected and administered to best ensure that the results accurately reflect the child's aptitude or achievement level, rather than any impairments in sensory, manual, or speaking skills (unless those are the skills the test purports to measure).

The following is a general guideline of what may be found in the FIE.

# Heading and Date

The beginning of a report will have identifying information for the child. This information may include the student's name and/or school identification number. The report will usually contain the parent's name, address, and home or work phone number. It usually includes the child's date of birth, chronological age, and sex. Sometimes it will include the school that the child attends.

The purpose of this information is to identify to identify the child who is the subject of the report.

➤ **This section of the report may include information regarding:**

- Name/school ID number
- Parent name
- Home address and phone number
- Date of birth/chronological age/sex
- School

➤ **This information may be obtained from:**

- School personnel (teachers, counselors, administrators)
- Parents
- Student assistant team
- School records
- Referral information



# Reason for Referral

The reason for the referral determines the focus of the evaluation. The FIE report should be written with the referral questions in mind. The specific reason for the referral guides evaluation personnel in the selection of appropriate assessment tools, strategies, and procedures. The focus of the report should be on the student and the areas of concern, regardless of the disability or disabilities for which the student is being evaluated. Ultimately, the purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether the student has a disability or disabilities, to gather information to help determine the educational needs of the student, and to guide decisions regarding appropriate programming and services for the student.

Information is needed from the referral source(s) to determine if culture, language, health, or socioeconomic factors may be the factors may be primary or contributing elements in the student's behavior or learning difficulty. This information also helps determine whether those factors affect the validity of the assessment results.

Federal guidelines require that the child be assessed in all in all appropriate areas of suspected disability, including health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status, and motor abilities. Federal guidelines also require the evaluation to be "sufficiently comprehensive" to identify all of the child's special education and related services needs, whether or not they are commonly linked to the disability category in which the child has been classified or for which the evaluation was requested. (34 CFR § 300.304.)

➤ **This section of the report may include information regarding:**

- Referral source
- Description of the problem or area(s) of concern
- Suspected disability or disabilities

➤ **Information can be obtained from the following sources:**

- Interviews with school personnel (teachers, counselors, administrators)
- Interviews or written input from parents
- Student assistance team
- Outside agency
- Family physician
- School records
- Referral information