

School-Based Evaluation

If you have concerns regarding your child's learning and academic achievement skills (i.e., learning disability, dyslexia, dysgraphia, etc.), this type of evaluation will not be covered by insurance in the medical setting as insurance companies see this as something school districts need to address. Therefore, UCSF cannot do these types of evaluations. Your options are to either pursue this through your local school district and/or privately in the community.

Through the school district:

- Parents need to formally request in writing to their school district that their child be evaluated for special education eligibility and services. After this letter is submitted, the school is required to respond with a written assessment plan OR indicate if they determine your child is not eligible for this evaluation.
- Upon receipt of a written request for an assessment from the parents, the school district has 15 days to respond. They will then send a formal assessment plan that you will review- you should then promptly provide formal permission to evaluate your child. The law requires the school district complete the evaluation and provide you with a copy of the evaluation report within 60 days of the date you have returned the signed permission to evaluate form to the school district.
- If your child is enrolled in a private school, check if their school provides this testing. If they do not, you may pursue this testing following the same procedure above through your local school district.

If your child is determined eligible for a school-based evaluation:

- Depending on the concerns and your child's needs, this evaluation may include the following assessments:
 - Psychoeducational evaluation (cognitive and academic skills)
 - Occupational Therapy (fine motor skills and hand coordination)
 - Physical Therapy (gross motor skills and overall coordination)
 - Speech/Language Therapy (receptive and expressive language, social pragmatics of speech, articulation, etc.)
 - Adaptive Technology (whether your child needs access to a digital device to help reduce the stress of writing demands).
- Results from this evaluation will help determine whether your child is eligible for an **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** and/or **504 Accommodation Plan**. For more information regarding the differences between these plan types, please see the IEP vs. 504 handout.
- Following the evaluation, you will have a formal meeting with the school team to review the results and determine what accommodations and services will be put in place, if any.

If your child is determined to be ineligible for an evaluation, you can pursue a private evaluation. Unfortunately, even if your child is determined to be ineligible for an evaluation and/or services, UCSF is unable to do this type of testing. Your pediatrician and/or insurance provider can give you community referrals for psychoeducational testing and/or private educational supports.