

## What is a Referral/Initial Meeting?

If a referral meeting is being held, that means the parent, the school, or someone working directly with the child has reason to suspect a disability and would like to discuss strengths, concerns, and needs of the child.

## Who is Part of the IEP Team?

The IEP (Individualized Education Program) team consists of parent(s) or guardian(s), at least one regular education teacher, at least one special education teacher, and a representative of the local education agency, such as the special education director or a principal. The child and others who work with the child may be asked to attend as well. (NC 1503-4.2)

## Meeting Overview:

The IEP team will review the following information about the child:

- Areas of strengths
- Review of existing data
- Reasons for the referral
- Summary of discussion
- Determination of next steps
- Suspected area of disability (if applicable)
- Screenings/Evaluations to be conducted (if applicable)

## What Can I Do to Prepare?

As a member of the IEP team, you can provide valuable information regarding your child. Some questions that could be asked during the meeting include the following:

- What are your child's strengths in academic areas as well as functional areas?
- What data/information exists about academic and functional abilities?
- What about your child's performance at school concerns you?
- Is your child having problems in language arts? Reading? Writing? Spelling?
- Is your child having trouble in math? Basic math concepts? Problem solving?
- Is your child having trouble with behavior/social skills? Having problems with peers?
- Is your child having health/medical problems that are affecting school performance?
- Is your child having trouble communicating?
- Is your child having trouble with motor skills?
- Is your child having trouble studying or getting work done?
- Is your child unable to take care of basic needs for daily living -- feeding, toileting, dressing?

## What Happens Next?

Possible outcomes from this meeting:

- The special education process will stop based on existing information.
- Sufficient data are present to allow the child to be considered eligible for special education.
- Insufficient data are present and other screenings and evaluations are needed

If additional data are requested, you must give permission for additional evaluations to be conducted.

- Note: signing permission to evaluate is NOT giving permission to receive services and may be revoked at any time

## More Information?

See the *Parent Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education* for more information ([ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/ecparenthandbook.pdf](http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/ecparenthandbook.pdf)).