

## Determination of Eligibility

Each school district, including charter schools, is obligated to have in effect policies and procedures to identify, locate, and evaluate any child with a suspected disability and are in need of special education services and/ or related services.

Determining eligibility for special education services involves many considerations. Therefore, schools use multiple interventions in addition to the eligibility procedures. Many districts are beginning to use a process by which students are provided with scientific, research-based, tiered interventions strategies aligned with individual student needs, prior to a referral. This process is commonly known as Response to Intervention or RTI.

The state has developed several resources which provide information and guidance on interventions, the evaluation process, and the determination of eligibility.

- The Legal Frameworks website provides a comprehensive explanation of the evaluation process in the *Guide to the Admission, Review and Dismissal* document. Legal Frameworks: <http://framework.esc18.net/>
- The following TEA Guidance Documents provide basic descriptions of what the RTI process entails: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/rti>
- Requirements for a Special education referral for children suspected of having a Specific learning disability can be found at the following site: <http://portal.esc20.net/portal/page/portal/esc20public/SpecialEducation/Requirements%20for%20a%20Referral%20to%20Special%20Education>

### Parental Request to Evaluate

By state and federal law, parents are guaranteed the right to request an evaluation at any time during the referral process. Further information can be found in the following documents:

- Legal Frameworks: [www.esc18.net](http://www.esc18.net)
- A Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process: <http://framework.esc18.net>

- Parent Request for an Evaluation flowchart tool:  
<http://portal.esc20.net/portal/page/portal/esc20public/SpecialEducation/ChildFind>
- Requirements for a Special Education Referral:  
<http://portal.esc20.net/portal/page/portal/esc20public/SpecialEducation/Requirements%20for%20a%20Referral%20to%20Special%20Education>

### Early Childhood

A collaborative partnership exist with the local school district and the local early childhood intervention program for the purpose of providing a smooth transition for those children entering and continuing special education services in the public school district at the age of three.

More information about this process can be found at the following sites:

- Legal Frameworks: [www.esc18.net](http://www.esc18.net)
- Key Elements of Early Transition (KEET):  
<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/guidance/keet.html>
- ECI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/mou/etmou.html>
- Early Childhood Intervention:
- <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/>
- ECI Transition Booklet (English):  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/resources/e-beyondeci.pdf>
- ECI Transition Booklet (Spanish):  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/resources/s-beyondeci.pdf>
- TEA-Special Education in Texas homepage:  
<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/>