

REFERRAL TO STATE SCHOOLS

Definition

Referral to State Schools means a referral of a student to California Schools for the Deaf, California Schools for the Blind, and/or the Diagnostic Schools.

Legal Requirements

A student may be referred, as appropriate, for further assessment and recommendations to the California Schools for the Deaf, California Schools for the Blind, and/or the Diagnostic Schools.

Prior to referring a student for further assessment to the California Schools for the Deaf or Blind and/or the Diagnostic Schools, districts, special education local plan areas (SELPA), counties, or other agencies providing education services, shall first conduct assessments at the local level within the capabilities of that agency. Results of local assessments shall be provided to parent(s) and shall state the reasons for referral to the State School. Results of local assessments that have been completed in the past 2.5 years shall accompany the referral request.

The Schools for the Deaf, the School for the Blind and the Diagnostic Schools shall conduct assessments pursuant to the provisions of EC § 56320 et seq.

A representative of the district, SELPA, or county (HCOE or DNCOE) IEP team shall participate in the staffing meeting and shall receive the final report and recommendations. Conference calls are acceptable forms of participation, provided that written reports and recommendations have been received by the representative prior to the meeting.

Legal References

EC 56326; Title 5 CCR 3025

Local Procedures

The California Department of Education operates Schools for the Deaf, Schools for the Blind, and Diagnostic Centers. School districts may refer students to any of these schools for further assessment.

Prior to referring a student to any of these state operated programs, the district/county office must first conduct its own assessment of the student within the capacity of the agency. The results of the assessment shall be reported to the parents in an IEP meeting. The IEP team shall explain the reasons for referring the student for further evaluation and obtain written parent consent prior to making the referral. The district/county office will include the results of local assessments, and a signed Authorization for Exchange of Confidential Information form in the letter of referral to the State school. The district shall participate in a staffing meeting with the State School at the completion of the evaluation. At that time staff from the State School will share the results of the evaluation and make recommendations to the district.

Local Forms

The district will obtain parent consent for referral to the State School on the SELPA Authorization for Release of Information form. APPENDIX A

FAQs

When is it appropriate to refer a student to one of the State schools?

The State schools can be helpful in cases where the district or County Office has conducted an evaluation of a student and after implementing an IEP for a reasonable period of time has determined that the student is not benefitting from the program and the district has exhausted its local resources for instructional support and/or diagnostic issues remain unanswered. The Diagnostic Centers are available to conduct additional assessments of a student when eligibility for special education is an issue. Contact the Humboldt-Del Norte SELPA for assistance obtaining such a Referral to for Educationally Related Intensive Counseling Services (ERICS).

REMINDERS

- Districts may refer a student to the State School for the Deaf, the School for the Blind, or a Diagnostic School for evaluation only after the district has conducted its own evaluation of the student. Evaluation cannot be older than 2.5 years.