

Navigating Your Child's Evaluation

A Resource Guide for Parents & Guardians

Receiving an Individualized Education Program (IEP) evaluation often feels like being handed a technical manual for your child. As parents and guardians, these reports can be complex, hard to understand, and very overwhelming to navigate alone. It is our goal to help our parents and guardians understand that Washington has a powerful network of support ready to help. This is a roadmap designed to guide you from understanding the basic terminology to finding one-on-one expert and peer support to ensure that your child has the right tools to thrive.



THE BASICS

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UNDERSTANDING THE "WHY" & "HOW"

- **The Arc of Washington:** Provides a deep dive into assessment types. Use this to understand what is being tested (e.g., motor vs. cognitive).
- **Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI):** Your source for the legal "rules of the road" for evaluations in WA K-12 public schools.
- **Understood.org:** Offers "plain language" guides if your child is being evaluated for ADHD, dyslexia, or dyscalculia.



RESOURCES

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ACCESSING FEDERAL & STATE SUPPORT

- **PAVE:** Provides excellent toolkits for decoding the evaluation process.
- **Open Doors for Multicultural Families:** Specializes in 1:1 support and native language resources for multicultural families.
- **Parent Center Hub:** A gateway to the national network of parent centers for broader research.
- **Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO):** Resolves concerns about WA K-12 public schools.



1:1 SUPPORT

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CONNECTING WITH EXPERTS & PEERS

- **The Arc of King County:** Offers 1:1 guidance to help you navigate disability services, housing stability services, and more.
- **Parent to Parent (P2P):** A state-funded peer program. Connect with a "mentor parent" who has navigated these exact reports before.
- **Information & Referral:** Local experts can help you sort through overwhelming paperwork to find what applies to you.



TAKING ACTION

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MOVING FROM REPORT TO RESULTS

- **IEP Parent Partners:** Trained volunteers who can attend meetings with you to ensure your voice is heard in the IEP process.
- **Advocacy Training:** The Arc of Washington offers workshops to help you become a stronger partner in the IEP process.
- **Professional Advocates:** Private options are available for complex cases, though they often require independent funding.

Scan the QR codes for resources



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PAVE



OPEN DOORS



PARENT CENTER
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IEP PARENT
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