



QUICK GUIDE: CONSENT FOR ASSESSMENT



CONSENT FOR ASSESSMENT

When a team seeks *Consent for Assessment*, they are asking for written, informed consent to conduct assessments as part of an evaluation or reevaluation. *Consent for Assessment* must always be sought when an evaluation team is administering one or more new assessments. However, some types of information or situations do not require consent. This Quick Guide will answer the following questions:

- When is *Consent for Assessment* required and **not** required?
- When do we document Internal Assessment or External Documentation?
- What is existing information or existing data?
- Does Medicaid have *Consent for Assessment* requirements?

CONSENT REQUIREMENTS

Consent for Assessment IS required...

- before conducting assessments as part of an **initial** evaluation of a student to determine if he or she qualifies as a child with a disability.
- for a reevaluation that requires new assessments.
- for observations conducted as part of a comprehensive evaluation, to establish eligibility, or as part of a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA).
- before conducting assessments as part of a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) that consists of more than existing information.
- when administering and reporting new assessments between evaluation cycles.

Consent for Assessment IS NOT required...

- for a reevaluation consisting solely of a review of existing data.
- for the review of existing data as part of an evaluation or reevaluation (file review).
- for the administration of a test or other assessment (screening) that is administered to all other students unless consent is required for all students.
- for observations or criterion-referenced tests used to monitor progress toward IEP goals.
- for screening conducted to determine appropriate instructional strategies within the curriculum.



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INTERNAL ASSESSMENT VS EXTERNAL DOCUMENTATION

Internal Assessment vs. External Documentation. In Idaho, the *Consent for Assessment* form allows teams to indicate whether the assessment will consist of *Internal Assessment* or *External Documentation*. **Although not required**, some teams opt to seek and document written consent for assessment when reviewing reports shared by parents from sources outside of the school system. It is assumed that all assessment areas selected on a *Consent for Assessment* form will be new assessments conducted by or on behalf of the district unless otherwise indicated by checking External Documentation.

Internal Documentation

- Indicates assessments being administered by the district or by an individual or organization on behalf of the district.
- Indicates new assessment (s).

External Documentation

- Indicates the use and/or interpretation of data obtained from sources outside of the school system such as medical reports or clinical evaluations.

EXISTING INFORMATION OR EXISTING EVIDENCE

Existing information (existing data) is all the information that is already available to the district and is part of the student’s educational record. For example, it may include progress monitoring data from the student’s IEP, assessments and information provided by the parent/adult student, classroom performance data, and more. The district does not need consent to use this information.

MEDICAID

“Evaluations and assessments must support services billed to Medicaid and must accurately reflect the student’s current status. Evaluations and assessments must be completed at least every three years. However, assessments for Personal Care Services (PCS) and Skills Building/Community Based Rehabilitation Services (CBRS) eligibility must be completed annually” ([Medicaid School-Based Services Reference Guide](#), 2020, p. 6.).

IDEA requires *Consent for Assessment* as outlined above, including department approved assessments required for Medicaid eligibility. However, Medicaid does not have *Consent for Assessment* requirements. Except where specific department approved assessments are required to “accurately reflect the student’s current status,” an LEA may “...use...a file review or [determine] that no new assessments are required. In the case of a file review, the Written Notice should clearly state that, based on a file review and other relevant student performance data, the student’s current status reflects the review and [the] student continues to be eligible for SPED services and that no additional assessments/evaluation are indicated at this time”.

–[Clarification](#) from November 17, 2020, *File Review or No New Assessments and Current Status REV*

*This guidance is specific to *Consent for Assessment* and should not be confused with guidance related to *Consent to Bill Medicaid*.



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EXAMPLE SCENARIOS			
Type of Information	Existing Data?	Consent Required?	Reporting Requirements
Classroom, district, or state assessment scores	Existing	No	Report in Background Information
Medical/clinical reports provided by parent*	Existing	No	Report in Background Information
Medical/clinical reports obtained via <i>Authorization to Exchange Confidential Information</i> provided by parent*	Existing	No	Report in Background Information
Parent, teacher, or student completes a social/emotional/behavioral rating scale	New	Yes	Report in the corresponding area of the <i>Eligibility Report</i>
Anchor assessment to obtain ECO ratings	New	No	Report in PLAAFP section of the IEP and/or <i>Written Notice</i>
Anchor assessment used to establish eligibility	New	Yes	Report in the corresponding area of the <i>Eligibility Report</i>
Conduct a file review as part of an evaluation or reevaluation	Existing	No	Report in Background Information
A reevaluation using only information from a file review	Existing	No	Provide <i>Written Notice</i> to parent/adult student. Report in Background Information and Summary of Evidence
An initial evaluation using only existing information	Existing	Yes	Report in Background Information and Summary of Evidence
* Remember that your team must consider information provided by parents			