

Office of Psychological Services
Student Services & Data Management Complex
2001 West Warren—East Wing Rm. 141
Detroit, MI 48208
(313) 748-6466
Fax (313) 748-6505



DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DeAnn Mack, Director
Clinical Prevention & Intervention Services
(313) 748-6466

Paul Chrustowski, Supervisor
East Side Schools /
City-Wide & Center-Based Programs
(313) 748-6440

Marsha Irvin, Supervisor
High Schools
(313) 748-6439

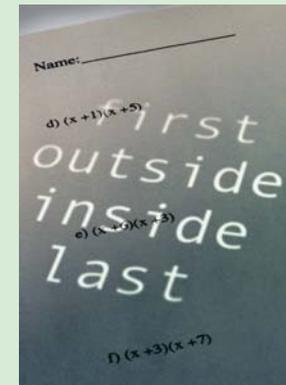
Daniel Lake, Supervisor
West Side Schools
(313) 748-6465



Detroit Public Schools
Office of Psychological Services

Nurturing Total Child Development

Psychological Evaluations



A Parent Information Pamphlet



Understanding Psychological Evaluations

Your child may have a problem that can be easily remedied without formal evaluations.

- School psychologists, school social workers, counselors and other specialists are available for pre-referral consultations through the school's **Resource Coordinating Team**.
- Through this process of problem-solving, additional resources, support services, and interventions may be recommended to address your child's needs.

If the interventions do not produce the desired outcomes and your child continues to have academic problems or exhibit inappropriate behaviors, the teacher may suggest an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services.

Often times when parents are confronted with this situation, they feel anxious, and express concern about the unnecessary labeling of their child. This is normal.

Your child cannot be evaluated without your signed consent!

It is important to know, however, that a referral for an evaluation means that you or your child's teachers need more information in order to better understand how to help him or her achieve success at home or school.

Once your consent has been received, the evaluation is conducted to determine specifically how well your child performs, in what area(s) your child is having difficulty and what instruction or support is needed to help your child. You will be invited to participate in the Individualized Education Program Team (IEPT) meeting that determines special education eligibility and the appropriate services your child may need.

What Kinds of Tests Will Be Given?

School psychologists administer a comprehensive psychological evaluation. They use a variety of tests that help to diagnose learning styles and problems in learning. Procedures also include classroom observations in the areas of suspected disability, information from teachers, parents and school or health records.

A child may be referred for more than one evaluation. When emotional behaviors appear as major concerns, an assessment will also be done to assess such conditions as depression, thought disorders, or school phobia. Evaluations may also be conducted by the school social worker or the teacher of the speech and language impaired.

Common Types of Psychological Tests

Intelligence Tests (IQ): IQ tests are standardized, diagnostic tools which measure cognitive functioning. They provide an overall score or estimate of "ability" to learn what is typically taught in school. The tests include a combination of verbal tasks such as vocabulary and performance (nonverbal) tasks such as puzzles and copying patterns. Frequently used tests include the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-IV, Stanford-Binet-V and Woodcock Johnson-III Cognitive Battery.

Achievement Tests: Achievement tests measure basic academic skills and content area information acquired through schooling. Commonly used achievement tests include the Woodcock-Johnson-III, Wechsler Individual Achievement Test-III, and the Wide Range Achievement Test—Fourth Edition.

Decisions are not made based solely on test scores!

If you suspect your child has a disability, contact your local school.