Parents now get 5 school days with evaluation reports

The change starts June 11, 2026. The law was changed to help parents meaningfully engage in the process.

This applies to:

- Toddlers turning 3 and moving from ESIT services to preschool
- Pre-schoolers, ages 3 to 5
- Students in K-12

This applies to initial evaluations and re-evaluations.

The report must be provided in a written or electronic format that the parents can keep and revisit it.

- Sharing the report only on the screen is not enough.
- Letting people review it only during a meeting is not enough.

Parents get 5 days to read the evaluation report and prepare for the meeting that determines whether the student qualifies for an individualized education program (IEP).

Note: School districts must translate the report if parents need it to engage meaningfully.

Turning 3? Here is the process

For children moving from early supports for infants and toddlers (ESIT) to preschool, IEPs must be developed and in place by the student's third birthday.

A copy of the evaluation report must be provided to parents 5 school days before the meeting that determines whether an IEP is needed.

Steps for children transitioning out of early supports

1. A transition planning conference will be convened for each student who may be eligible for preschool services at least 90 days prior to the student's third birthday.

2. Within 25 school days following the transition planning conference, the school district will determine whether to evaluate the student for special education services.
3. If the district evaluates, then parents must receive a copy of the evaluation report 5 school days before the meeting when eligibility is decided.
4. The IEP must be developed and implemented by the time a child turns 3.

Citations: ESHB 2557, WAC 392-172A-02080; WAC 392-172A-02000

For children in preschool through grade 12:

Once a parent consents to an evaluation for special education services:

1. The school district has 35 school days to complete an evaluation.
2. Once the evaluation is complete, parents have 5 school days to read the report and prepare for the eligibility determination meeting.
3. The IEP must be developed and implemented within 30 school days after the eligibility determination meeting.

If the parents and district agree to an extension for the evaluation, parents must still get the report 5 school days prior to the agreed upon date for the determination meeting.

Note: The evaluation report does not determine eligibility. That happens at the eligibility determination meeting.

What if the parents don't want 5 school days with the report?

A parent can choose, in writing, not to wait five school days after getting the evaluation report before holding the eligibility meeting. **This choice is up to the parent.**

Citations: ESB2557, WAC 392-172A-01040; WAC 392-172A-05010; WAC 392-172A-03100; WAC 392-172A-05015

For a more detailed Q&A, please see: ESHB 2557—Evaluation & Eligibility Determination Timelines Q&A