

Your Rights After a Dyslexia Screening

A screening is a flag — not a diagnosis, and not an evaluation. These are the rights every family has as you decide what comes next.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

A reading screening can raise more questions than it answers, and most letters don't mention what you're actually entitled to. This page is a quick reference to the rights every family has under federal law — so you can recognize them, name them, and use them. Keep it handy when you talk with your child's school.



Every right below applies in all 50 states. They come from federal law — the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504, and FERPA — and they apply whether or not your child ends up qualifying for services.

- 1 Request a full evaluation — anytime, in writing.**
A screening isn't an evaluation. You can ask the school to evaluate your child at any time, and you don't have to wait through "wait and see," RTI, or an SST first.
- 2 Give or withhold your consent.**
The school needs your written consent before it can evaluate — and agreeing to an evaluation is not the same as agreeing to services. Those are separate choices.
- 3 A timely evaluation, free of charge.**
Once you consent, federal law sets a 60-day default to finish the evaluation, at no cost to you. Many states set their own timeline.
- 4 An explanation in writing.**
If the school proposes or refuses to evaluate, it must tell you why in writing ("prior written notice") and give you a copy of your parental rights.
- 5 A free, appropriate education (FAPE).**
If your child qualifies, they're entitled to support that meets their needs — through an IEP, or accommodations through a 504 plan.
- 6 A second opinion.**
If you disagree with the school's evaluation, you can request an Independent Educational Evaluation — which the school must fund or formally challenge.
- 7 See your child's records.**
You can inspect and review your child's school records, including screening results and evaluation reports.
- 8 Disagree — and be heard.**
If you and the school don't see eye to eye, you have options: mediation, a state complaint, or a due process hearing.

Know your rights in your state

These federal rights apply nationwide — but dyslexia screening laws, evaluation timelines, and the exact steps differ from state to state. Complete the **Personalized Results Guide at stridable.com** to see what applies where you live.

Sources: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.300, 300.301, 300.502, 300.503, 300.504; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (sites.ed.gov/idea).

This guide is for general information only and is not legal advice. It's designed to help you prepare and take well-informed actions on behalf of your child. Laws, timelines, and school policies vary by state and can change, so check the current rules where you live. For help with your specific situation, consider speaking with an educational advocate or special education attorney. Stridable is not a law firm and does not provide legal representation.