



DENIED! NOW WHAT?

You've requested an evaluations, but it was denied and you aren't sure of the next steps. We've outlined what you should do next.

1

YOU MADE YOUR REQUEST BY PHONE OR IN -PERSON

Here is a rule to live by, "*If it didn't happen in writing, it didn't happen*". Make your request in writing. If the school then denies again, make a new request asking for a written explanation.

Remember schools like to play games. You submit a written request, the school calls. Keep documenting everything they say in writing.



2

BRING IN REINFORCEMENTS

There is no harm in securing extra help with a trained advocate or lawyer. Try searching your state through the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA). If you don't see anyone in your immediate vicinity, reach out because they may be able to refer you to a friend, advocacy tends to be a close knit community.



3

TIME TO SCHEDULE THE GATHERING

Although the initial goal was to get the evaluation moving forward by politely decline a pre-evaluation meeting, the school may be denying your request as a way to get you inside the building. Schedule a meeting, as soon as possible, to find out what the denial is all about.

Don't forget to follow up with a "Thank you for meeting with me." email where you outline everything that was discussed.



4

MEDIATION/DUE PROCESS ISN'T A SCARY WORD.

Don't be afraid to request a mediator to come in from the state to mediate a meeting. If you decide that you've already had enough back and forth, you can file for due process. However, if this is the route you take, we highly suggest you hire an attorney. The positive outcome rates for parents in due process is not very high; don't go that route alone.



5

TIME TO EMPTY THE CHANGE JAR.

If you just can't with the school, we understand. Maybe it is time to secure an independent evaluation. This will not be paid for by the school and the school only has to accept it and say, "thank you." Find someone highly qualified and with depth in your child's suspected disability. It may be an important tool if you do in fact hire an attorney and end up at due process.



6

PEACE OUT PUBLIC SCHOOL

Public school was not created equally, if it were, you wouldn't be reading an infographic about a denied evaluation. Think about this, you've made a request for an evaluation, the first step in the process, and the school is willing to fight you, tooth and nail. Do you truly believe they are going to conduct a through evaluation or provide extensive remediation services?



6

FINALLY, REPEAT AFTER US:

I am a fighter, I will not give up.

I will stumble, I will fall but I will stand back up.

It may take longer at times, but I will always stand up back up and keep fighting.

