



School Problems?
That's not my area.....

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Oh, but it is your area!

- The PCP can play a very important role in promoting optimal educational environments for kids
- SF kids have complex educational issues
 - Psychological
 - Cultural (language issues)
 - Overstressed school system

So how do we do this?

■ Case

- Jose is a 7 year old who has no medical problems and receives regular primary care in your continuity clinic
- At his 7 year check up his mother reports he is having difficulty concentrating in class and that the teacher reports he has trouble with reading and writing, and he occasionally has outbursts and crying spells that seem related to frustration

How can you help Jose?

- Medical evaluation
 - Maybe he can't see, hear
- Social work consult at SFGH
- Conversation with Jose's teacher
 - Perhaps Jose's mother doesn't understand the issues
- ? CAS referral
 - Does he need ritalin?
- Referral for IEP
 - What is an IEP anyway?!?!???

Birth of the IEP (1975)

1975 Education for All Handicapped Children Act

Children with MR, hearing/speech problems, learning disabilities, visual impairments, emotional disturbances, orthopedic impairments, and other medical conditions that may interfere with education have a right to special services through the public school system

Children's Rights under this Act

- Evaluation by a multidisciplinary team
- Education in the least restrictive environment
- Services available as needed:
 - Transportation
 - Developmental, corrective, and other services including speech, psychological services, PT/OT
 - Recreation
 - Social services
- Parents are to be involved and are granted “due process”, with native language communication and the right to appeal

SF Unified School District

- Founded in 1851
 - First public school district established in California,
 - Educates over 60,000 students annually
 - over 160 pre-school, elementary, middle and high schools
 - philosophical tenet, 'every child can learn'.
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Screening and Assessment Center

- **Screening and Assessment Center**
- 135 Van Ness
Room 207
San Francisco, CA 94102
- Phone: 355-6904
- Fax: 355-6910
- Email: lstack@muse.sfusd.edu

Screening and Assessment Center

- **The general education department of the San Francisco Unified School District responsible for the individualized evaluation of students**
- **Provides a single center to coordinate all individualized assessments and to streamline the IEP process for parents and staff**

Screening and Assessment Center

■ Staff

- Program Specialist: helps coordinate IEPs
 - Contact: Kay Cook 355-6904
- Psychologists
- Interns
- Speech Therapists
- Social Workers
- Bilingual Assessors

Screening and Assessment Center

- **Referrals for Special Education Services**
- IEP requested by parent or school
- The Assessment Center will mail a copy of the "Parent's Rights" and an Assessment Plan to the parent/guardian for signature following the IDEA designated timelines. The assessor completing the assessment plan will give a copy of the plan to the school site administrator.

Screening and Assessment Center

■ Referrals (cont)

- Upon receipt of the signed Assessment Plan the psychologist and/or assessment consultant will complete the assessment and return the assessment report to the appropriate school staff.
- School staff will schedule and send the notice of IEP meeting to the parent/guardian .

Screening and Assessment Center

■ Referrals (cont)

- The assessment consultants will attend the initial IEP for all students assessed. The IEP team will determine eligibility and frequency and duration of services if the student is eligible for service.
- The responsibility for implementation of services and case management rests with site staff once the IEP determines a student eligible

Who needs this type of assessment service?

- Students who are having difficulty with learning issues and need additional evaluation to determine the best instructional strategies and techniques to assist them are appropriate referrals for this service

What services can the Screening and Assessment Center currently provide?

- All initial assessments for Special Education Services: psychoeducational, speech, hearing, vision, physical and other disability related services
- All individual language assessment for newly enrolling students whose primary language is not English.

Who will respond to the IEP request?

- The nature and area of concern of the request will determine the consultant assigned.
- Could include District psychologists, speech clinicians, behaviorists, social workers, occupational and physical therapists, vision and/or orientation and mobility therapists.

How long will it take to get a response?

- Within two weeks of the referral reaching the Screening and Assessment Center an assessment plan will be mailed to the home for signature.
- The assessment process cannot begin until the assessment plan is signed and returned
- If a plan is not returned your site will be notified and asked to assist in obtaining a signature
- No child can be assessed without parental permission and a signed plan.

What if a child is already SPED?

- The services of the Screening and Assessment Center are available to all students in the District including GATE, Bilingual, Special Education, etc.
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Does the referral have to come from the teacher?

- No. A request can be made by any administrator, teacher, parent, and/or by the SST/SAP team. Although preferable, an SST/SAP is not necessary to request Assessment services for a student
- PCPs have a role in facilitating the IEP request via the School Health Form

What to do when Jose's mom needs help with the process..

- She doesn't understand the IEP meeting
 - She disagrees with the recommendations
 - She wants support at the meeting...
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- Do you go as the PCP?!?!?! (Yeah, right, in all your spare time...)

Legal Services for Children

- Founded in 1975 as the first nonprofit law firm for children and youth in the country, Legal Services for Children provides free legal and social services to children and youth under 18 years old in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- LSC provides assistance with dependencies, guardianships, emancipations, hearings arising out of school discipline, special education, benefits, immigration, and other cases not easily categorized.

LSC Referrals

- Concerned adults and youth can call our office, Monday through Friday, from 1:30pm - 5:00pm
 - Phone: (415) 863-3762.
 - Ask for the "Intake worker of the day" or leave a message in the "intake voice mail."
 - Calls will be returned within 24 hours
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The PCP Role in all of this...

- Help identify problems via screening at well visits
- Advocate for patients by encouraging parents to exercise their right to request IEP
- Refer for help with the process
- Provide frequent medical follow-up to address ongoing issues and support the process