

# **Fort Worth Country Day Guidelines for Psychoeducational and Neuropsychological Evaluations**

## **Rationale for FWCD Evaluation Guidelines**

Fort Worth Country Day is committed to best practices in serving students with various diagnosed learning differences. We also commit to writing quality Student Learning Plans with accommodations that will serve students throughout their time with us and hopefully in any educational environment they might be part of after their FWCD years. An essential piece in this support partnership is a quality evaluation. This document is designed to articulate what FWCD considers a quality evaluation.

A quality evaluation cannot be rushed and often takes 4 to 6 weeks or longer from the time of inquiry to the final report to schedule and execute. Once the division Academic Support Coordinator receives the evaluation, we review it, write a plan, and contact you to discuss appropriate accommodations and support. College Board and ACT have deadlines in place regarding the amount of time before a testing date that an evaluation must be submitted in order for them to review evaluations and approve national standardized accommodations. To provide sufficient time to process new evaluations, prepare exams and testing areas, and for College Board and ACT personnel to review testing, FWCD requires all new evaluations to be submitted in full **8 weeks** prior to College Board or ACT scheduled testing dates and **4 weeks** prior to FWCD scheduled midterms or finals.

## **Specifications of accepted testing at FWCD**

Fort Worth Country Day will recognize **psycho-educational evaluations** (evaluations for learning differences, dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia) that come from Educational Diagnosticians with current TEA certification or Clinical Psychologists holding a Ph.D., Psych.D, Ed.D., or an LSSP (Licensed Specialist in School Psychology), as long as the evaluation meets current standards of practice.

Fort Worth Country Day will recognize **neuropsychological evaluations** (evaluations for ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, depression, anxiety, and other mental health diagnoses) that meet current standards of practice from Clinical Psychologists holding a Ph.D., Psych.D, Ed.D., or an LSSP (Licensed Specialist in School Psychology).

To meet requirements for eligibility for **College Board and ACT** national standardized testing accommodations, each evaluation for a specific learning disability should contain both a full (not brief form) cognitive evaluation using instruments such as the WISC-V or WJ-IV and a full (cluster, not broad scores) academic evaluation using instruments such as the WIAT-III or WJ-IV. There must be more than one subtest per disability area. **Two or more of the student's current teachers** should be asked to participate in giving feedback, and the report should identify the diagnosis and the DSM V or ICD-10 code.

To meet requirements for eligibility for College Board and ACT national standardized testing accommodations, each evaluation for a psychological disorder should contain a full (not brief form) cognitive evaluation using instruments such as the WISC-V or WJ-IV and a full (cluster, not broad scores) academic evaluation using instruments such as the WIAT-III or WJ-IV, as well as behavior rating scales for the specific diagnosis in question and any other needed behavior rating scales to rule in or rule out excluding diagnostic factors. **Two or more of the student's current teachers** should be asked to participate in the behavior rating scales and feedback, and the report should identify the diagnosis and the DSM V or ICD-10 diagnosis code.

### **Testing is valid for 3 years.**

Please note that in order for any accommodations to be considered, the **entire evaluation** must be submitted to the School. Students with expired evaluations will be removed from the accommodations list. Academic Support Coordinators make every effort to remind families when their student's evaluation is approaching re-evaluation; however, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure that a student's evaluations are up to date. Any questions or concerns can be addressed with a student's Academic Support Coordinator or the Assistant Head of School for Student Support and Academics.

Please note that College Board (PSAT, SAT, AP) and ACT have become very stringent in their requirements for granting extended time and other accommodations for national standardized testing. FWCD submits the paperwork on a student's behalf; however, the School does not have any agency in the decision that College Board or ACT makes to grant or not grant extended time or other accommodations. Following the guidelines above maximizes but does not guarantee

that a student will be approved for national standardized testing and other accommodations.