



Statement on Documentation Requirements for Learning Support and Academic Accommodations

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School follows the Diocese of Orange Documentation Requirements for Academic Accommodation in determining placement and Individualized Learning Plan support. An assessment must meet these requirements to be considered by St. Serra. An assessment is only valid for three years. A reevaluation is needed for services/support to continue if they are needed at that time.

If you are concerned that your child's education is impacted by an underlying learning difference, you may consider securing a comprehensive psychoeducational assessment to learn about possible contributions to his or her current learning struggles. There are two assessment options to consider:

- You can request a special education eligibility evaluation from your school district of residence at no cost to you, or
- You may choose to work with a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist at your own expense.

Either option can help determine whether your child qualifies for support services at St. Serra. Before you begin this process, you are required to reach out to the Director of Learning Support for your student's grade (Preschool – 4th grade: Mrs. Guillen, 5th – 8th grade: Dr. Quigley) to get the most current documentation requirement for you to share with the assessor.

In order for your student to be eligible for academic accommodations, the assessment **must** contain components which lend support to the diagnosis (or in the case of the public school evaluation, IEP eligibility) and the need for certain accommodations which are matched to the specific impairments evident in the school setting. Obtaining a diagnosis or IEP eligibility does not in and of itself guarantee academic accommodations but can be taken into consideration by St. Serra. The components include but are not limited to tests of:

- Cognitive Abilities
- Academic Achievement
- Memory
- Rating Scales completed by parents and at least 3 teachers
- And supplemental tests to rule in or rule out suspected learning/attention disorders.
- A history of the presenting concern including grades and school based standardized testing, and what, if anything, has already been done to address the concern will also be needed.

Letters from medical doctors or other service providers (e.g., Occupational Therapists) are not sufficient to support academic accommodations in the absence of a comprehensive assessment.

Please request the Documentation Requirements prior to beginning an assessment and clarify any questions with the Director of Learning Support before proceeding with an assessment.