

Determination of Eligibility and Placement

Upon completion of the FIE report, a group of qualified professionals and the parent/guardian of the child will determine whether the child is a child with a disability and the needs of the child.

CFISD will provide a copy of the FIE report and disability report to the parent/guardian of the child.

A child must not be determined to be a child with a disability if the child's lack of progress is due to:

- Lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, including oral reading skills and reading comprehension strategies)
- Lack of instruction in mathematics
- Limited English proficiency

The ARD Committee shall make its decisions regarding students referred for an FIE within 30 calendar days from the date of the FIE report.

If the 30th calendar day falls during the summer and school is not in session, the ARD Committee shall have until the first day of school in the fall to finalize decisions concerning the initial eligibility determination, the IEP, and placement, unless the FIE indicates that the student will need extended school year (ESY) services during that summer.

NOTE: The 30-day timeline applies regardless of the results of the FIE. If the student does not qualify for special education services, the ARD Committee meeting must be held by the first day of school.

The ARD Committee will review the FIE and to determine if the child is eligible for special education services. In order to be eligible, the ARD Committee must establish that the child has (a) a disability and (b) an educational need.

In determining if the child has a disability and the educational needs of the child, CFISD must: document and carefully consider information from a variety of sources, including (a) aptitude and achievement tests, (b) parent input, (c) teacher recommendations, (d) physical condition and (e) social or cultural background. The district's ARD Committee documents the dates and type of evaluation completed by the district staff and outside professionals.