



Institute for Families and Communities of English/Multilingual Learners

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

April 28, 2022

Presenters:
Diana Aragundi
Rita Rodriguez-Engberg
Advocates for Children of NY

In the chat:

- 1. Name**
- 2. Borough**
- 3. What is your preferred language?**

Purpose



- Learn about education advocacy and how to build strong parent-student-school connections
- Foster a cross-cultural community to develop meaningful relationships relevant to English learners and multilingual/multicultural students and families
- Hear from diverse families and community leaders on culture, language and identity



WORKSHOP MENU

Date	Time	Topic	Organization
Tuesday, April 14	5:15pm - 6:30pm Hybrid	Centering Culture, Identity, Language in the Home and School	Division of Multilingual Learners Citywide Council on English Language Learners and Microsoft
Tuesday, April 26	5:30PM - 6:30PM	Supporting Undocumented Students and Families in K-12	Immschools
Thursday, April 28	5:30PM - 6:30PM Online	Special Education and English Language Learners	Advocates for Children
Saturday, April 30	10:30AM - 11:30AM Online	Advocacy Skills for Parents	IncludeNYC
Tuesday, May 17	5:30PM - 6:30PM Online	How to Prepare for the Annual ELL Parent Teacher Conference	New York State Association of Bilingual Education
Thursday, May 19	5:30PM - 6:30PM Online	Post-Secondary Oppotunities for Immigrant and Undocumented	Immschools
Saturday, May 21	10:30AM - 11:30AM Online	Title III and Family Engagement	Division of Multilingual Learners, NYCDOE
Thursday, June 2	5:30PM - 6:30PM Online	Parent Panel: Immigrant Community Leadership	Immschools
Saturday, June 4	10:30AM - 11:30AM Online	Starting Free Adult Education for ELLs in Your Community	Office of Adult Education, NYCDOE
Tuesday, June 7	5:30PM - 6:30PM Online	Supporting Bilingualism in the Home	Division of Multilingual Learners, NYCDOE
Saturday, July 16	11:00AM - 5:30PM In Person	Mini Workshops and End of Year Celebration	Division of Multilingual Learners and Microsoft



Advocates for Children of New York

AFC is a non-profit organization that works to protect the right of every child in New York City to a quality education.

Our Free Services:

- Helpline: **1-866-427-6033** (Mon-Thurs, 10am – 4pm)
- Guides and resources: www.advocatesforchildren.org
- Workshops and trainings
- Free legal services to low-income families



Today's Workshop



ELLs with Disabilities

What is Special Education?

Special Education Process for Parents of ELLs

The IEP in Your Language

Options for ELLs with Disabilities

Parents' Rights



ELLs with Disabilities



Student with a Disability

- A student who has a mental, physical, or emotional disability that affects how they learn in school. Students with disabilities may qualify to receive **special education services**.

English Language Learner (ELL)

- A student who is learning to speak/write/read/understand English. ELLs are entitled to receive instruction and support in school to help them learn English.

ELLs with Disabilities

- Students who have a disability and who are learning English. **They have a right to receive special education services in their language (if needed).**



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act



I.D.E.A.: The Federal Law that protects children with disabilities.

It says that **all children** (through age 21) with a disability have a right to a:

**FREE
APPROPRIATE
PUBLIC
EDUICATION**

In the Least Restrictive Setting.

****Immigration
Status
Does Not
Matter!***

What does this mean?



What is Special Education?



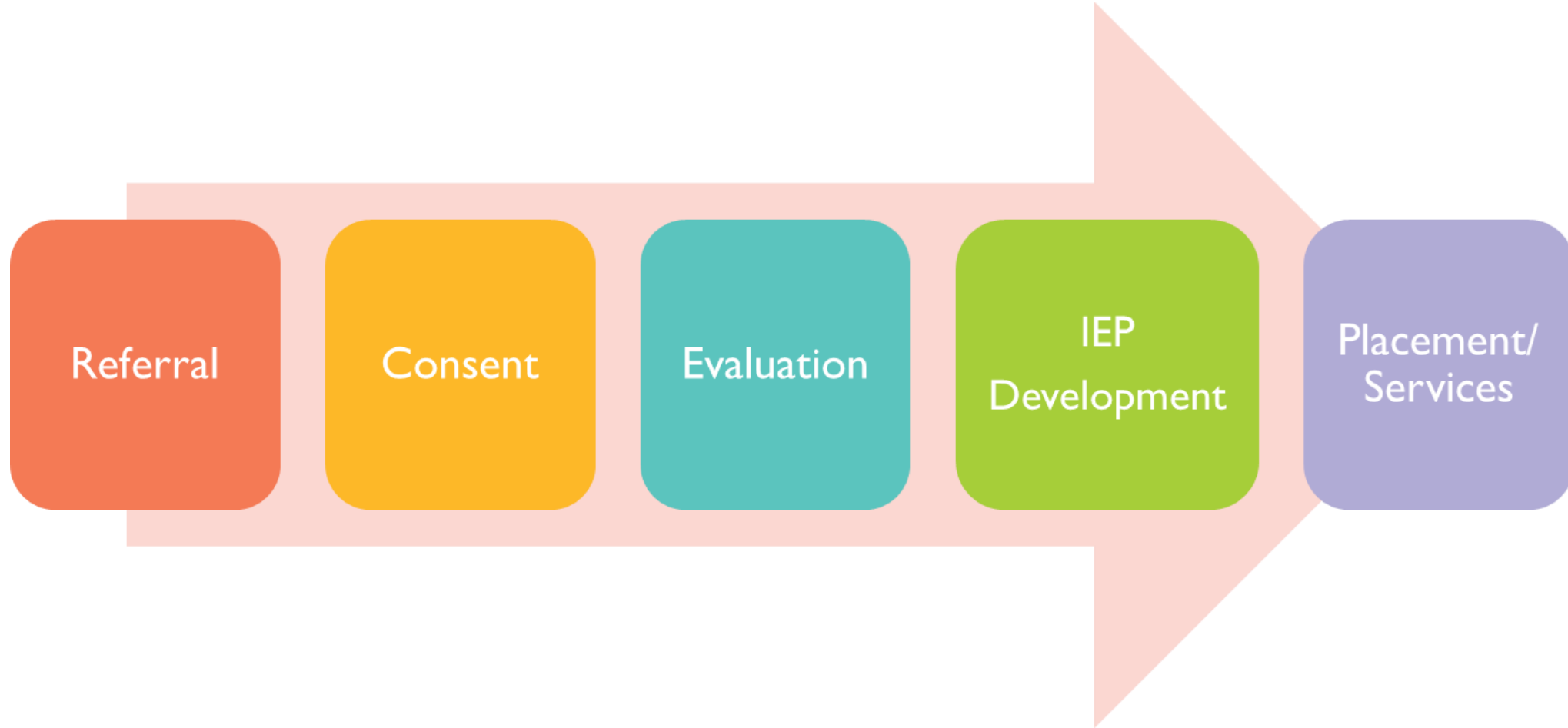
Special Education is:

- A set of supports and services designed to meet the needs of a child with a disability.
- These supports and services are included in the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Services can be given in the child's home language. This is called Bilingual Special Education.





The Special Education Process





Referral and Consent – In your Language



How to refer?

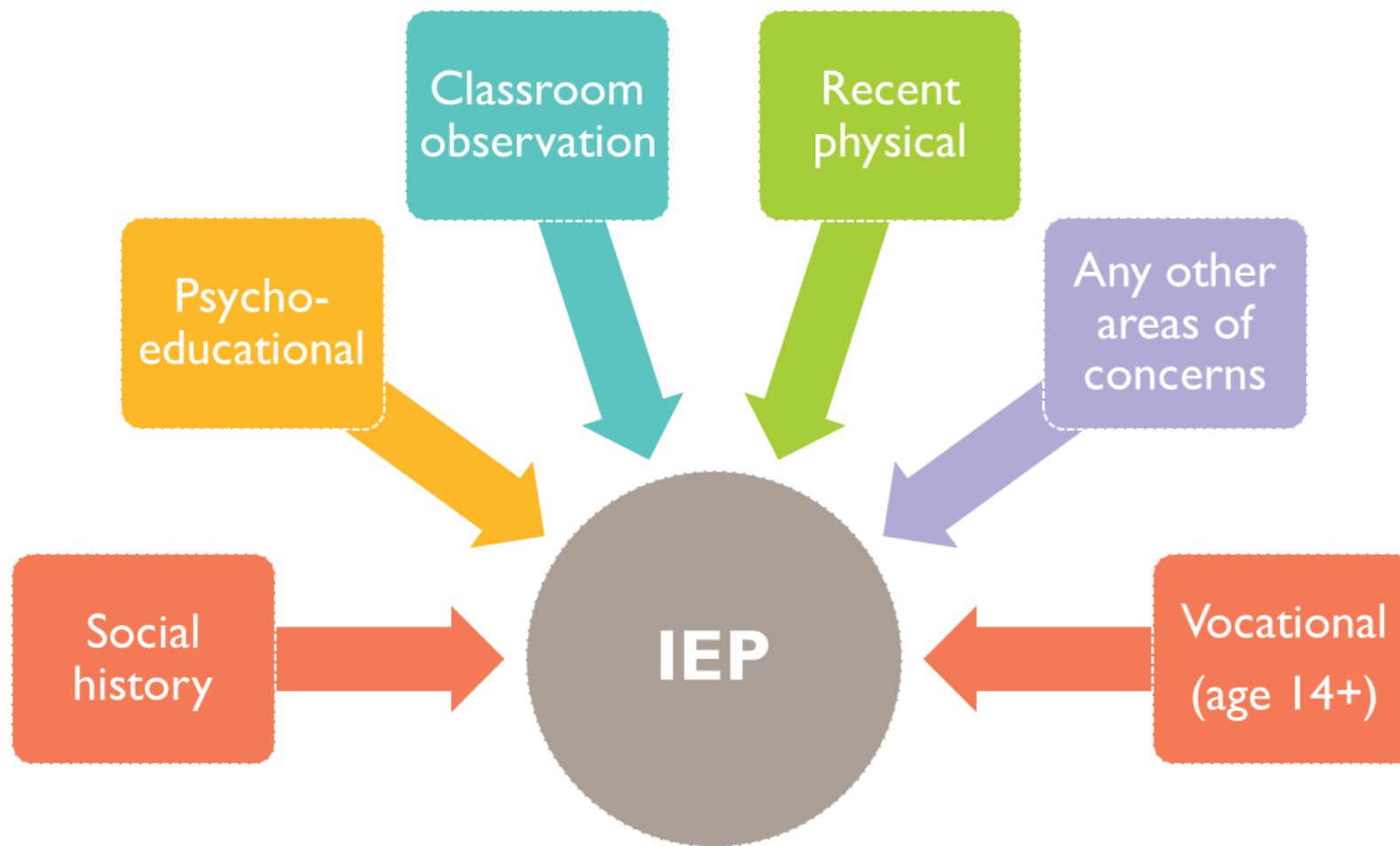
- Send a letter via email, in your language, to the principal or specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov
- Can also bring a letter to child's school on paper, in person
- Write it in your language

School then asks parent to give consent (signature). Ask for documents in your language!

All testing and IEP meeting must happen within 60 school days of the time parent gives written consent



Evaluations - In your Language





Special Education Evaluations - Bilingual



Evaluations of child done in English and child's home language

You have the right to request a bilingual special education evaluation if your child's home language is not English

All children who are ELLs must be first evaluated in both English and home language.



Individualized Education Program - IEP



What is an IEP?

- The IEP is a document created at an **IEP Meeting** after the student is evaluated
- Unique to each student
- Includes information about the student and the plan to help them learn
- Legal (like a contract)
- Good for one year

Who is Present at an IEP Meeting?

- Parents(s)
- Special Education Teacher
- General Education Teacher
- School Psychologist
- District Representative
- Student (15 years and older)
- Other Persons (Interpreters)

All IEP meetings are still being conducted on video/phone call!



Translations of Special Education Documents

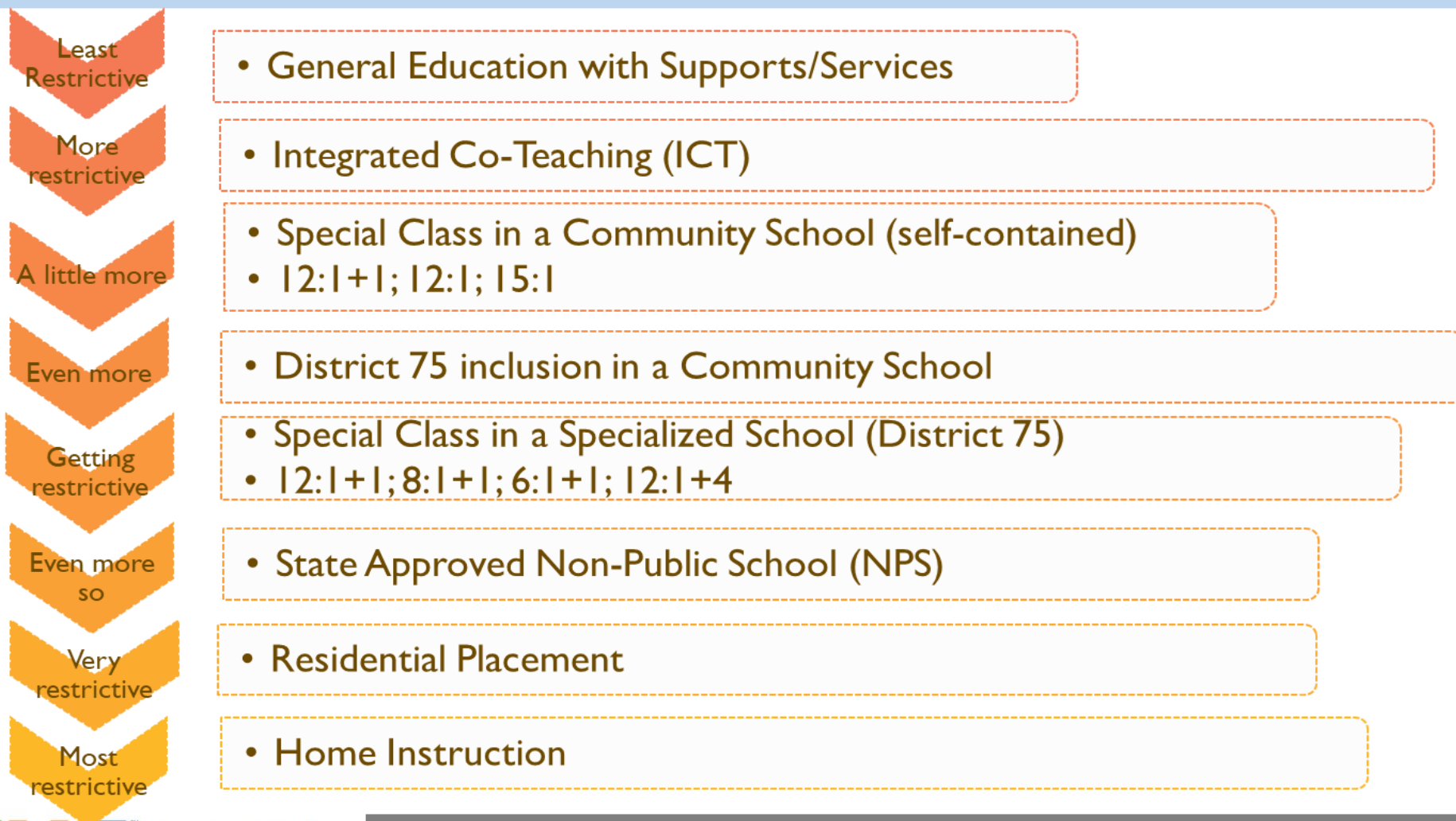


The DOE must translate all special education documents in the top nine languages when parents request it.

- Special education documents include IEPs, evaluations, notices, and 504 Plans
- Ask for a translation at your child's school, online at www.schools.nyc.gov/IEPhello, or by phone: (718) 935-2013



School and Classroom Options





Bilingual Special Education Classrooms



Children learn academic skills and receive special education support in their home language

Taught in English and your child's home language

Can be ICT, or smaller, special class

In community and District 75 schools

Either Dual Language (DL) or Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE)

To find a bilingual special education class,
email BSEprograms@schools.nyc.gov





What if my child's school does not have a bilingual special education classroom?



Your child can transfer to a school that offers bilingual special education services or a bilingual classroom.

Tell the school that you would like to transfer your child or email BSEprograms@schools.nyc.gov

If a transfer is not possible, your child might stay in an English-only class and be assigned an alternate placement paraprofessional who will interpret for your child in class.

Your child should continue to receive ENL.



Supports & Services



Assistive Technology (AT)

Paraprofessionals

Related Services

- Counseling (in your language)
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy (in your language)

Special Education Teacher Support Services (in your language)

Transportation

12-month services





Related Service Authorizations



There are a limited number of bilingual clinicians, such as speech therapists and psychologists in NYC public schools.

Not all schools can provide related services in your child's home language.

The DOE can give you a Related Service Authorization (RSA) to be able to get bilingual related services outside of school.

RSAs allow parents to choose an independent provider to provide these services, and the DOE will pay for them.

Issues with related services?

- Email: relatedservices@schools.nyc.gov





Parents Have the Right to...



Say yes or no to special education

Ask for new evaluations, including independent bilingual evaluations

Fully participate in all IEP meetings

Have the DOE provide an interpreter who speaks your language and have the DOE translate documents

Get notice in writing *before* the school changes a child's IEP or services



REMINDERS

Before you go!

- Complete the Exit Survey- ***Exit survey link in Chat***
- Tell a colleague about the next session with IncludeNYC on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 10:30AM

We're always happy to hear from you!

Email us at DML@schools.nyc.gov

**For School Staff ONLY please complete the exit survey to receive CTLE Credits*