

Subject Special education

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Overview

This bill allows a school district to conduct a functional behavior assessment (FBA) as a stand-alone evaluation without conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the student.

An FBA is defined in Minnesota Rules as:

“[A] process for gathering information to maximize the efficiency of behavioral supports. An FBA includes a description of problem behaviors and the identification of events, times, and situations that predict the occurrence and nonoccurrence of the behavior. An FBA also identifies the antecedents, consequences, and reinforcers that maintain the behavior, the possible functions of the behavior, and possible positive alternative behaviors. An FBA includes a variety of data collection methods and sources that facilitate the development of hypotheses and summary statements regarding behavioral patterns.”

The Minnesota Department of Education has issued guidance that an FBA is considered a reevaluation and must be conducted in accordance with federal and state evaluation procedures, and must be incorporated into a comprehensive evaluation report. Neither the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, nor its enabling regulations define an FBA.