

## The PPT and special needs education



If your child does not gain sufficient benefit from a standard education, he or she may have the right to special needs education.

Special education can for example mean that the pupil works in accordance with different educational learning goals than other pupils, or that a teacher or assistant monitors and assists the pupil in the classroom or that the pupil is provided with specially adapted equipment. Special education shall be adapted to suit your child's needs.

If either you or the school is concerned that your child is not gaining sufficient benefit from teaching, the school is obligated by law to attempt to adapt the situation to suit your child's needs. If such measures are insufficient, the school and the Educational and Psychological Counselling Service (PPT) must assess and advise on what your child needs. Then the school must adopt an individual ruling.

The PPT may engage in interdisciplinary collaboration at the local level, for example with the health services or NAV, and at the national level with e.g. Statped or psychiatric services. The PPT is bound by a duty of confidentiality.

### **What is the meaning of Educational and Psychological Counselling Service ( PPT )**

A public service agency that provides advice and guidance to schools, municipalities, and county municipalities on the establishment of measures and initiatives for children and adolescents with needs.

### **Expert assessment**

A document issued by PPT that determines whether the child is in need of special education and advises on the measures and initiatives that should be provided for the child.

### **Individual administrative decision**

A letter from the school that informs you whether or not your child has the right to special education, and if applicable what form this will take. Such decisions can always be appealed.

### **Individual Subject Curriculum (IOP in Norwegian )**

An IOP shall include the learning goals and content of the special education and is an aid and tool for teachers.

---

## What can I expect from the school?

### *The school shall*

- ensure that the child's best interests are safeguarded
- involve and consult you prior to taking decisions that affect your child
- conduct interviews with the child and parents and perform the necessary assessments of the child
- request that PPT provide an expert assessment if you request this, and if the school is of the opinion your child is in need of special education
- adopt an individual administrative decision that states whether or not your child is in need of special education and in such case what form this will take
- prepare an Individual Subject Curriculum (IOP )
- provide the pupil with the prescribed special needs education as shown in the individual administrative ruling and IOP
- prepare an annual written report on the special education and the child's progress and development
- ensure that you and your child are provided with guidance on what assessment with and without grades in lower secondary school entails, before you make a decision

## What can I do?

### *As the parent you*

- can demand the school looks into whether your child is in need of special education
- can discuss your concern with the PPT and the school prior to referral
- shall be involved and consent before the school requests PPT assess your child
- shall be involved and consent before the school rules your child is to receive special education
- shall receive an annual written report on the special education your child is receiving and an assessment of the progress and development of your child
- can lodge an appeal if your child is not provided with special education
- can appeal the content, implementation or organization of the special education
- can decide if your child has exemption from assessment with grades in lower secondary school in those subjects he or she receives special education