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Functional Behavioral Assessments

This is one in a series of policy briefs prepared by the New York State Education Department, on topics pertaining to implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in New York State.

What is a Functional Behavioral Assessment ?

A functional behavioral assessment (FBA) means the process of determining why a student engages in behaviors that impede learning and how the

When must an FBA be conducted?

- \$ V W X G H Q W ¶ V E H K D Y L R U U H O D W H V W R W K H H Q Y
- x a student with a disability is exhibiting persistent behaviors that impede his or her learning or that of others, despite consistently implemented general school-wide or classroom-wide interventions;
- x W K H V W X G H Q W ¶ V E H K D Y L R U S O D F H P H Q W V D V D U H V X O W R I W K H V W X G H Q
- x the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) is considering more restrictive programs or
- x the student is subject to disciplinary actions and a determination has been

What must an FBA include?

- The FBA must include, but is not limited to:
- x identification of the problem behavior;
  - x definition of the behavior in concrete terms;
  - x identification of the contextual factors that contribute to the behavior (including cognitive and affective factors); and
  - x formulation of a hypothesis regarding the general conditions under which a behavior usually occurs and probable consequences that serve to maintain it.

What information must an FBA include?

The FBA must:  
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- o reinforcing consequences of the behavior;
- o recommendations for teaching alternative skills or behaviors; and
- o assessment of student preferences for reinforcement.

What information is an FBA based on?

The FBA must, as appropriate, be based on multiple sources of data (such as structured interviews, behavior rating scales, standardized assessments, checklists) and must include, but is not limited to:

- x information obtained from direct observation of the student;
- x LQIRUPDWLRQ IURP WKH VWXGHQW WKH \ service provider(s); and
- x a review of available data and information from the student's record and RWKHU VRXUFHV LQFOXGLQJ DQ\ UHOHYDQW parent.

The )%\$ FDQQRW EH EDVHG VROHO\ RQ WKH problem behavior.

Is a FBA the same as a Behavioral Intervention Plan?