



Allendale Public Schools
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ADHD Evaluations

*Parents may question if their child has ADD/ADHD and ask about evaluation at their child's school.
Here are some tips and information.*

Per the CDC government website:

- Deciding if a child has ADHD is a process with several steps.
- There is no single test to diagnose ADHD, and many other problems, like sleep disorders, anxiety, depression, and certain types of learning disabilities, can have similar symptoms.
- If you are concerned about whether a child might have ADHD, the first step is to talk with a healthcare provider to find out if the symptoms fit the diagnosis. [The diagnosis can be made by a mental health professional, like a psychologist or psychiatrist, or by a primary care provider, like a pediatrician.](#)
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that healthcare providers ask parents, teachers, and other adults who care for the child about the child's behavior in different settings, like at home, school, or with peers.
- The healthcare provider should also determine whether the child has another condition that can either explain the symptoms better, or that occurs at the same time as ADHD.

Allendale Public Schools and ADHD

- APS school professionals do not conduct ADHD evaluations.
- Should parents/guardians want more information about possible evaluation, community supports and interventions, contacts for some regional resources that specialize in ADHD and children are included
 - Resources include but not limited to: Pine Rest Psychological Consultation Center; Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Pediatric Behavioral Health; BRAINS; Mosaic Counseling
 - It would be appropriate and encouraged to have the clinician to also seek input from the school staff where the child is engaged in a "work environment" which is much different than the home environment.
- If a child does receive a diagnosis from their physician or mental health clinician, these results can be shared with the school and teachers. There are many strategies known to be helpful in working with students with ADHD.
 - The report can be confidentially shared with the school and a copy placed in the student's school file. There can be a "flag" placed on the electronic file to alert educators of the diagnosis.

Helpful Online Resources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/diagnosis.html>
- <https://chadd.org/>
- <https://www.additudemag.com/>