

Collaboration and Family Involvement in Functional Assessment (FIFA) Tips

What is Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA)?

- It is a way to understand how different events, places, and social interactions affect a student's behavior.
- It helps schools, families, and community members understand what triggers problem behavior, and "why" the student engages in the behavior.
- It helps identify responses to behavior by teachers, families, and peers that may cause the behavior to increase.
- It helps identify the communication and social skill needs of the student.
- It helps identify the strengths and preferences of the student.
- It helps school personnel develop an effective behavior intervention plan.
- It uses record reviews, student observations, and interview to gather information.

When does a FBA occur?

- A teacher or behavior specialist may request functional behavior assessment (FBA) when a student has ongoing behavior problems.
- A parent requests one when a student has ongoing behavior problems.
- School personnel or family member requests it when a student has been suspended five or more days.
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (special education law) requires that a functional behavior assessment take place when a student has been suspended (sent home or removed from school for serious behavior problems) 10 or more days in a school year.

