

## Questions consultants can ask families to assess what level of support is needed:

### → The student's learning profile:

- ◆ How would you describe your child's academic strengths & weaknesses?
- ◆ Has your child had a psychological or neuropsychological evaluation?
  - When was the evaluation conducted? Did it include cognitive and academic testing? What were the findings?
  - What have you learned about your child through the testing?
  - Do you agree with the results?
  - Have you shared the evaluation with their current school?
  - Is your child aware of their learning challenges? Have you shared the testing results with them?
- ◆ Does your child have an IEP or 504 Plan?
- ◆ Are there specific accommodations or modifications (e.g. curricular, deadline related, course exemptions) that have helped your child succeed in school?
- ◆ How does your child feel about homework/schoolwork?
- ◆ Do they complete and hand in assignments on time?
- ◆ Do they complete assignments on their own or with direction/assistance/prompting?
- ◆ How well-organized are they?
- ◆ What tools or resources does your child use to stay organized (e.g., planners, apps)?
- ◆ Are there any executive functioning challenges you've noticed (difficulty with time management, planning, or task initiation, for example)?
- ◆ How does your child handle transitions between tasks or activities?
- ◆ Are they able to keep up with reading and writing?
- ◆ Does your child receive support? ( e.g. tutoring, PT, OT, speech or EF Coaching) How often?
- ◆ Does your child use/rely on assistive technology to complete assignments or other tasks?
- ◆ What strategies have been effective in helping your child learn? Can your child utilize those strategies independently or do they need support?
- ◆ What routines and/or structures do you have in place at home to assist your child?
- ◆ Is your child independent in their daily routines (waking up with an alarm, taking medication - if applicable, personal hygiene, etc.)?

### → Evaluating Emotional & Social (Mental Health) Needs:

- ◆ Describe your child's emotional well-being. Have there been any recent changes? (anxiety, school refusal, depression)
- ◆ How does your child express their emotions? Are there particular emotions they struggle with?
- ◆ What coping strategies does your child use when faced with stress or anxiety?
- ◆ Have there been any significant life events or changes that have impacted your child emotionally?

- ◆ Has your child received support from a therapist or taken medication for any mental health concerns? If so, what has been the focus of that support?
- ◆ Has your child ever been hospitalized or received mental health interventions beyond working with a therapist?
- ◆ How does your child handle academic stress or pressure?
- ◆ Who does your child turn to for support when they are feeling overwhelmed or stressed?
- ◆ Have there been any emotional outbursts, school refusal, self-harm, or other disruptive behavior?
- ◆ How does your child typically interact with peers? Do they have close friends?
- ◆ Does your child need help connecting with peers their own age?
- ◆ Have there been any challenges your child has faced in social situations?

→ Evaluating Family Dynamics & Parental Alignment:

- ◆ Do you, as parents, agree on your child's learning needs?
- ◆ Has there been any conflict within the family regarding school choice?
- ◆ Which school characteristics and components help your child to be successful?
- ◆ How involved do you expect to be in your child's school life, and what role do you envision for the school in supporting your family?
- ◆ Are there any cultural or family expectations that influence the school choice?
- ◆ What are your goals for your child's education and personal development?
- ◆ What role do family and friends play in your child's emotional support network?

→ Assessing family expectations and school fit while identifying the need for a therapeutic placement:

- ◆ What are your top priorities in selecting a school for your child?
- ◆ Are you open to schools that provide additional learning support or structured interventions?
- ◆ If "we" were to recommend a setting that is different from what you originally envisioned, how would you feel about this? Would you be open to considering other options?
- ◆ How do you envision the ideal school environment to support your child's unique needs?
- ◆ What are your biggest concerns or hopes regarding your child's transition to a boarding school?
- ◆ What type of school culture do you think would best support your child's learning and growth?
- ◆ What values do you prioritize in education (e.g. diversity, inclusivity, character development, tradition)?
- ◆ How important is the school's mission or philosophy in your decision-making process?
- ◆ How important are advanced academic programs or extracurricular activities in your school selection process?