

INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide parents of all students referred to the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or the Committee on Preschool Education (CPSE) with notice of their due process rights. This due process notice informs parents regarding their right to an independent educational evaluation (IEE) and the circumstances under which such an evaluation will be completed at District expense.

Purpose of the IEE:

When a parent disagrees with an evaluation conducted by the District and the District hasn't conducted further evaluation to address the parents concerns, an/or the parent requested the district to conduct an evaluation within the last 90 days and the district declined or failed to respond within 30 days, the parent shall be deemed to be in disagreement with the District's evaluation. The parent can request an independent evaluation in writing by outlining their disagreement and forwarding this request to the Director of Special Education. It is the policy of the Board of Education to notify the parent of its determination regarding the funding of the Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) within 20 days of receipt of this written request.

The District will maintain a list of independent educational evaluators available to issue IEE's in conformance with the criteria pursuant to this policy.

Any independent evaluation, whether paid for by the parent or by the school district, will be reviewed by the CSE/CPSE and the recommendations will be taken into consideration as part of the Committee's final determination. However, the district will not be responsible for the quality of the IEE.

Definition/Criteria:

Independent Educational Evaluation means an individual evaluation of a student who has or who is suspected of having a disability, conducted by a person who is not employed by the school district. It shall be the policy of the District that whenever the evaluation is at public expense, the criteria under which the evaluator is obtained, including the location of the evaluation and the qualifications of the examiner shall be the same as the criteria the district uses when it initiates an evaluation. This includes:

1. **Location:** Geographic location of the evaluation must be within a 50-mile Radius of the district.
2. **Minimal Qualifications:** The professional conducting the evaluation must meet the qualifications for professional certification or licensure as defined by the New York State Education Department.

3. **Timeline for IEE and reimbursement:** The IEE may be used to contest an evaluation performed by the District within 90 days of the IEE. Requests for reimbursement must be made within 90 days of the date of the IEE.
4. **Reasonable Costs of an IEE:** Reasonable costs are defined as 10% above the evaluation rate of any teaching university hospital within the 50-mile radius not to exceed \$ 1,800.00. Any additional cost beyond that are the responsibility of the parent or parent's insurance.

Public Funding of an IEE:

The school district will provide public funding of an IEE only under the following additional conditions:

1. The District was unable to comply with mandated timelines for Conducting its own evaluation. OR
2. The IEE is made at the request of an impartial hearing officer as Part of a duly convened impartial hearing. OR
3. The parent disagrees with the District evaluation and the District has Not conducted further evaluation to address the areas of concern Within 90 days of the written parental concerns or disagreement. AND
4. The parents agree to inquire as to the availability of any health Insurance to offset the cost of the IEE or a portion thereof.

The school District may deny reimbursement of an IEE if the above criteria are not met and/or if the IEE was not obtained because of a disagreement with the district's evaluation and/or if the District has already funded a previous IEE and has conducted no subsequent evaluations

Effective: December 6, 2011