

Independent Education Evaluation

An Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) is an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not an employee of a student's school district nor has any special interest in the outcome of that evaluation. A parent/guardian of a child with a disability is eligible to have an independent educational evaluation (IEE) conducted at public expense if the parent/guardian disagrees with an evaluation that the District conducted or obtained for the child. If the parent/guardian obtains an IEE at their own expense, the District will consider reimbursing the parent/guardian if the IEE meets the District's criteria for such evaluations contained in the procedures implementing this policy.

Except as provided for in the procedures implementing this policy, the District's evaluation must be completed before a parent/guardian may obtain an IEE at public expense. The District's evaluation is complete when the District provides the parent/guardian with a proper notice of evaluation findings as required by law. In addition, all IEEs must be consistent with the District's criteria for special education evaluations including the administration of tests that meet standardization criteria and qualifications of the evaluator. Parents/guardians may only request one publicly funded IEE for each evaluation that the District conducts or obtains.

If the District receives an evaluation privately obtained by the parent/guardian and the District is requested to pay for that IEE, the District will first determine if that evaluation meets the established criteria for such evaluations. If the District believes there is cause to not fund the costs of the IEE privately obtained by the parent/guardian, the District will initiate a due process hearing without unnecessary delay and a hearing officer will decide who is responsible for the IEE costs under relevant state and federal law. Consistent with the parent/guardian's right to an IEE, the District may also propose mediation. The parent/guardians will be responsible for IEE costs if the hearing officer finds that:

1. The District's evaluation was appropriate; and/or
2. The IEE fails to meet District criteria for special education evaluations and no unique circumstances justify deviation from those criteria.

Adopted: 1/13/14

References:

(Proposed Procedures for Independent Education Evaluation)
Special Education Procedure Handbook (rev. 2011)
Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 115.787(3); 115.80
Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act IDEA (34 C.F.R. 300.502)
DPI Info Bulletin 1.04
OSEP Memorandum RE: Independent Educational Evaluations (9/10/2001)
PI-11 Wisconsin Administrative Code