



# Independent Educational Evaluations (IEEs)



Paula Volpiansky  
School Administration Consultant  
Special Education Team



May 2015

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

## What is an IEE?

- An IEE is an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not an employee of the student's school district



May 2015

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

## Parents' Right to an IEE

- Parents always have the right to get an independent/outside evaluation at their own expense
- Parents have the right to an IEE **at public expense** if they disagree with a school district's evaluation



May 2015

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

### Parents' Right to an IEE

- Parents are entitled to only one IEE at public expense each time the district conducts an evaluation
- Parents are encouraged, but not required to notify the district before obtaining an IEE

May 2015



---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

### Any Exceptions?

- Parents have the right to an IEE at no expense unless
  - The district shows in a due process hearing that its own evaluation was appropriate
  - The district shows in a due process hearing that the IEE did not meet district criteria
- A parent may forfeit the right to an IEE by failing to give consent for a district assessment

May 2015



---

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

### How Must a District Respond to a Parent's Request for an IEE?

Without unnecessary delay, the district must

- Provide the district's policies explaining the district's IEE criteria
- Inform the parent where to obtain an IEE
- Respond to the parent's request by ensuring an IEE is provided or requesting a due process hearing
  - Whether the time taken to respond is reasonable is determined on a case by case basis

May 2015



---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### District Criteria

- The same criteria that apply to district evaluations and evaluators apply to IEEs (to the extent that those criteria are consistent with the parent's right to an IEE)
- A district's criteria for evaluators must be directly related to the evaluator's ability to conduct an evaluation in the relevant area(s)
- District criteria must be reasonable

May 2015 

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

### District Criteria

- District policies around IEEs at public expense may address
  - Location of evaluation
  - Qualifications of evaluator
  - The cost of the IEE

... as long as these do not prevent a parent from obtaining an IEE

May 2015 

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### District Criteria

- District policies must allow for flexibility to make case by case decisions
  - Parents allowed to demonstrate factors that justify the cost of an IEE that falls outside the district's criteria
  - Parents allowed to justify their selection of an evaluator who does not meet the district's criteria
- A due process hearing is required before a district can deny payment for an IEE it believes does not meet its criteria

May 2015 

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### District Criteria Other Considerations

- Due process hearings and court cases have also addressed topics including
  - Travel expenses
  - Classroom observations
  - When and how payment for IEE occurs
  - Submission of IEE reports

May 2015 

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### What Happens after the IEE?

- When a parent obtains an outside evaluation at private expense or an IEE at public expense, the district must consider the results of the evaluation
  - IEP team reviews findings and recommendations as they relate to IEP team decisions about eligibility, disability-related needs, special education services, or placement
  - District is not obligated to accept the evaluator's recommendations or conclusions

May 2015 

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### Other FAQs

- Does the parent have to use an evaluator recommended by the district?
- Does a district have to pay for the evaluator to attend an IEP team meeting following the IEE?
- Must an IEE cover all areas addressed in the district's evaluation?

May 2015 

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Other FAQs

- Does a parent need to let the district know they plan to get an IEE before getting one?
- If the parent does not inform the district before getting an IEE, does the district still have to pay?
- Can the parent and the district agree to alternative options after a parent has requested an IEE?

May 2015




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Where Can I Get More Information?

- District Director of Special Education
- DPI Special Education Team
  - Index: [http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped\\_tm-specedtopics](http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_tm-specedtopics)
  - Parent Page: [http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped\\_parent](http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_parent)
  - Links to Parent and Community Organizations [http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped\\_par\\_agency](http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_par_agency)
- WSPEI: <http://wspei.org/>
- FACETS: <http://www.wifacets.org/>
- Your family/child's physician

May 2015




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Questions- Contact Information

Special Education Team Webpage  
<http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/>

Paula Volpiansky  
School Administration Consultant  
[paula.volpiansky@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:paula.volpiansky@dpi.wi.gov)  
608-267-3725

May 2015




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---