



Independent Educational Evaluations (IEEs)

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
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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.

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Parents' Right to an IEE (1)

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.

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Parents' Right to an IEE (2)

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.

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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.

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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, and
- 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.

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District Criteria (1)

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.

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District Criteria (2)

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.

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District Criteria (3)

District policies must allow for flexibility to make case by case decisions.

- Parents are allowed to demonstrate factors that justify the cost of an IEE that falls outside the district's criteria.
- Parents are 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.

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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, and
- submission of IEE reports.

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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.

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Other FAQs (1)

- 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?

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Other FAQs (2)

- 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?

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Where Can I Get More Information?

- District Director of Special Education
- DPI Special Education Team-IEE
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/topics#iee>
- Family Page: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/families>
- Links to Parent and Community Organizations
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/families/agency>
- Your family/child's physician

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Questions & Contact Information

Special Education Team Website
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped>
 608/266-1781

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