

BARRINGTON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

Independent Educational Evaluation

Under certain circumstances, parents of a child with a disability have the right to obtain an Independent Educational Evaluation of their child conducted by an appropriately certified and/or licensed examiner who is not employed by the school district. The results of such an independent evaluation shall be considered by the school district in any decision made with respect to the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the child.

Parent right to evaluation at public expense:

1. A parent has the right to an Independent Educational Evaluation at public expense under specific circumstances. If the parent disagrees with an evaluation conducted by the public school district.
2. If a parent requests an Independent Educational Evaluation at public expense, the district must, without unnecessary delay, and not later than 15 calendar days from receipt of a request either:
 - a. File a due process complaint to request a hearing to show that its evaluation is appropriate; or
 - b. Ensure that an Independent Educational Evaluation is provided at public expense unless the school district demonstrates in a hearing that the evaluation obtained by the parent did not meet agency criteria.
3. If the public agency files a due process complaint notice to request a hearing and the final decision is that the public agency's evaluation is appropriate, the parent still has the right to an independent educational evaluation, but not a public expense.
4. If a parent requests an independent evaluation, the parent will submit their request in writing, stating the parent's reasons why he or she objects to the identified evaluation conducted by the public agency (school department).
5. A parent is entitled to only one independent education evaluation at public expense each time the district conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

Procedure

1. A parent shall request an Independent Educational Evaluation in writing, and shall send this request to the Director of Pupil Personnel Services. The school district shall respond, in writing, within fifteen (15) school days of receipt of the parent's written request.. The school district will provide to the parent(s), upon request for an Independent Educational Evaluation, information about where an Independent Educational Evaluation may be obtained. The parent will sign a release of records for the independent evaluator, allowing the district to provide any information requested by the evaluator and a letter authorizing payment for the evaluation.
2. Whenever an Independent Educational Evaluation is at the expense of the school district, the criteria under which the evaluation is obtained, such as the qualification of the examiner, must be the same as the criteria which the local school district uses when it initiates an evaluation, including information regarding school performance requested and provided by school personnel.
3. If the parent(s) disagree with any evaluation performed by the public agency/ school district, they are entitled to only one publicly funded Independent Educational Evaluation for each evaluation performed by the school district. If the parent(s) obtained an Independent Educational Evaluation at private expense, the results will be considered by the school district in any decision made with respect to the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.
4. Public expense means that the school district either pays for the full cost of the evaluation or insures that the evaluation is otherwise provided at no cost to the parent(s).
5. The Barrington School Department will remit payment upon receipt of the examination/evaluation report.