Independent Educational Evaluation Tips

You have a right to request one Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) at public expense each time the school district conducts an evaluation with which you disagree.

An IEE is not limited to evaluating your child’s academic and cognitive skills, but may include the evaluation of any skill that may be impacted by your child’s disability. For example, if your child has behavioral needs and you do not agree with the functional behavior assessment (FBA) conducted by the school district, you may request an independent functional behavior (FBA) assessment.

An independent evaluator is an evaluator that is not employed by the public agency responsible for educating your child.

Public expense means it is paid for by the school district with no cost to you.

If you disagree with the school district’s evaluation, it is important to indicate you do not agree when signing the Evaluation Team Report (ETR).

The school district can ask you for the reason(s) you disagree, but you are not required to explain.

The school district must respond to your request for an IEE in one of two ways:

1) The school district must provide an IEE at public expense, or
2) The school district must immediately file a request for a due process hearing to defend their evaluation.

If the school district agrees to provide the IEE, they must, without unnecessary delay, provide you with a list of independent evaluators from which you may select an independent evaluator to conduct your child’s testing.

It is recommended that the school district and independent evaluator set up the plan for payment prior to the actual independent evaluation taking place.

Disclaimer: This publication is intended to provide information only and is not intended as legal advice. You should consult a lawyer, if you need legal advice.