

Why Request an IEE?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) gives you the right to have your child evaluated independently. This means you have the right to have your child evaluated by someone other than staff who work for the school system.

The purpose of the evaluation is to see if your child has a disability and, if so, what his or her special needs are. In some cases, you may pay for an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE). In other cases, the school system may pay for it. If the school system pays for the IEE, or insures that the IEE is done at no cost to you, this is known as an *IEE at public expense*.

Sometimes a family may feel that the results of the school's evaluation do not accurately describe their child. Some parents may want additional academic tests or medical exams. Or they may be interested in having evaluations done in skill areas the school did not test. Parents can choose to have their child tested outside the school system, for these or other reasons.

However, if you want the school to pay for an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE), you will need to make your request BEFORE any independent testing is done. Some reasons you may want to request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) include:

- You believe the original evaluation was incorrect.
- The original evaluation was not done in your child's native language.
- You believe that the original evaluation was incomplete and additional tests are needed.
- The evaluation was not done with the needed accommodations (for example, in Braille or administered by someone who knows sign language).

The school system may agree to your request and pay for the IEE. On the other hand, the school system may deny your request and ask for a hearing to show that its own evaluation was appropriate. You will have the chance at this hearing to state your reasons why the school system should be required to pay for the IEE. An impartial third person (called a hearing officer) listens to and reviews the evidence. This individual then decides if the school system must pay for an independent evaluation. If the hearing officer decides in favor of the school system, you may still obtain an independent evaluation, but you must pay for it. *The results of the IEE must be considered by the school in any decision made regarding your child's free appropriate public education (FAPE).*

Who Performs the IEE?

An IEE is not limited to having an educational or school psychologist evaluate academic and/or cognitive skills but may also include the evaluation of *any skill related to the child's educational needs*. Parents may obtain an IEE for virtually any purpose if it impacts the child's education. Please see these links for further information on a parent's right to an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE).

- [US Department of Education IDEA 2004 Regulations concerning Parental Rights to an IEE](#)
- [IDEA 2004 Rights to Examine Child's School Records](#)
- [IDEA 2004 Evaluation and Re-evaluation Guidelines](#)