

INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

(4321.4 R)

The Mahopac City School District (District) has established the following procedures for obtaining independent educational evaluation(s) (IEE(s)) for children who are classified by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Education (CPSE) as having a disability or who are suspected of having a disability.

Parents with children who have been classified with a disability or children who are suspected of having an educationally related disability have the right under Federal and State regulations to obtain an IEE at public expense under certain conditions. Regulatory standards are outlined in New York State Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Sections 200.5(a)(1)(vi) and Federal Regulations 34 CFR 300.503. Additionally, A Parent's Guide to Special Education: Your Child's Right to an Education in New York State and the Procedural Safeguards Notice, published by the New York State Education Department, detail IEE requirements. These documents are available from the Rye City School District Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services Office for parents who desire to review them.

Definition

An independent educational evaluation (IEE) means an evaluation conducted by qualified examiners as defined in 34 CFR 300.12 who are not employed by the District.

If a parent or guardian disagrees with the evaluation conducted by the District, the parent or guardian may have the right to obtain one IEE at public expense for each District evaluation. If a parent requests an IEE at public expense, the District must, with unnecessary delay, either: (a) file a due process complaint to request an impartial hearing before an impartial hearing officer to contest the IEE for failure to comply with the District's criteria and/or to defend the appropriateness of the evaluation conducted by the District, or (b) provide the IEE at public expense. If the impartial hearing officer determines that the District's evaluation is appropriate, the parents/guardian would not have the right to a publicly funded IEE or the right to reimbursement for the IEE.

Timeline

A parent may request an IEE at public expense from the District at any time. However, a parent is entitled to only one IEE at public expense each time the District conducts an evaluation of his/her child with which he/she disagrees. If a parent unilaterally obtains an evaluation at private expense and wishes to submit the private evaluation to the District for reimbursement as an IEE at public expense, the parent will have up to ninety (90) days from the date of the private evaluation to request IEE reimbursement from the District. A copy of the private evaluation report and an itemized invoice must be attached by the parent to the request for IEE reimbursement.

Requests should be in writing to: Mahopac Central School District
District-Wide Administrator of Special Education
179 Lake Boulevard
Mahopac, NY 10541

If the parent requests an IEE, the District may ask why the parent objects to the evaluation of the child done by the District. The District may not require an explanation and may not unreasonably delay either providing the IEE at public expense or filing a due process complaint to request an impartial hearing to contest the IEE and/or defend the evaluations conducted by the District.

Public Expense

Public expense means that the District either pays for the full cost of the IEE or ensures that the evaluation is otherwise provided at no cost to the parent/guardian. The District has set the following rates as the maximum allowable fees per evaluation:

Psycho-Educational Evaluation	\$2,500.00
Neurological Evaluation	\$ 900.00
Speech/Language Evaluation	\$ 660.00
OT Evaluation	\$ 660.00
PT Evaluation	\$ 660.00
Psychiatric Evaluation	\$1,350.00
Neuropsychological Evaluation	\$2,100.00
Audiological Evaluation	\$ 319.00
CAP Evaluation	\$ 423.00
Assistive Technology Evaluation	\$1,000.00

The District may pay for an IEE only if conducted by an individual who possesses current license or certification from the New York State Education Department in the area of the evaluation. The maximum allowable fees set by the District will be high enough to permit parents to choose among qualified professionals within a 50-mile radius of the District. Requests for exception to the maximum allowable fees may be allowed by the District if justified by the student’s unique circumstances. Any request for such an exception should be forwarded in writing to the District-Wide Administrator for Special Education.

Responsibilities

Parents may select any professional who meets the criteria stated previously. The District has established a list of qualified professionals who are in private practice or employees of other public agencies to whom parents may go to secure an IEE. It is the responsibility of the independent evaluator to contact the District to arrange for payment, dates of classroom visitations and discussions with school staff. The independent evaluator is also responsible for sending a copy of his/her current NYS certification/license to the District-Wide Administrator for Special Education.

The District has the responsibility to designate the geographic area in which the parents would be limited in their search for an independent evaluator. The District will consider for public funding evaluations conducted within a 50-mile radius of the district. The District is not responsible for travel expenses and/or mileage to and from the evaluation site. Requests for exception to this geographic area limitation may be allowed by the District if justified by the student’s unique circumstances. Any request for such an exception should be forwarded in writing to the District-Wide Administrator for Special Education.

