



WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION (IEE)

Has your child been evaluated by the school district but you still have questions? Do you feel your child would benefit from an outside opinion/diagnosis or a more comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation?

Parents/guardians of children within the private and public educational system have the right to an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) when they do not agree with the results of an evaluation (e.g., psychological, educational, speech/language testing) conducted by their home school district. These evaluations are considered “independent” because they are conducted by a qualified provider (in this case, a neuropsychologist) who does not work for the child’s school district.

There are several reasons why a parent or guardian might request an IEE:

- The school evaluation did not find evidence of a disability that you think is there.
- You do not believe the disability your child has been classified with is correct.
- You think the results of the testing are not an accurate reflection of your child.
- The school’s evaluation did not examine all the areas or issues you think it should have.
- You do not think the services your child is receiving are adequate or appropriate.

In these situations, the district is responsible for covering the cost, unless they are able to prove that their evaluation was appropriate through a formal meeting called an “impartial hearing.” When requesting an IEE, parents/guardians should be prepared to give a reason for why they do not agree with the school district’s evaluation and they need to submit their request in writing to the special education coordinator or principal of the school.

When an IEE is approved:

- The family may choose any qualified provider to perform the evaluation.
- For students in New York City, the district will provide an Assessment Authorization (AA) Letter and a list of independent providers.
- The evaluator does not need to be on the district’s recommended list of providers.
- The district may cap the amount they will reimburse for the evaluation, but parents can appeal the cap and provide justification that they require an evaluation by a provider whose fees are outside of this cap (e.g., evaluator with expertise in particular medical conditions).

This process can vary depending upon your local school district and it is important to review the information shared by your district or county. It is very important that you make your request for an IEE in writing after the completion of the school’s testing.



For more information or any other questions contact New York State's Office of Special Education at (518) 473-2878, or the local Special Education Quality Assurance Regional Offices at the following phone numbers:

New York City Regional Office
Brooklyn, NY
(718) 722-4544

Western Regional Office
Batavia, NY
(585) 344-2002

Central Regional Office
Syracuse, NY
(315) 428-4556

Long Island Regional Office
Hauppauge, NY
(631) 952-3352

Eastern Regional Office
Albany, NY
(518) 486-6366

Hudson Valley Regional Office
Albany, NY
(518) 473-1185

Sources:

<https://includenyc.org/help-center/resources/independent-education-evaluation/>

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/iee/>

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/e/300.502>

<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/independent-educational-evaluations-iees-what-you-need-to-know>

<https://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/individvalcontents.htm>

https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/0548/special_education_services.htm