

INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS

At the time of CSE initial or reevaluation, the Office of Special Services will inform parents regarding their right to an independent evaluation by providing them with a copy of the Due Process Notice. When they disagree with the evaluation conducted by the CSE, parents may request an independent evaluation at the district's expense. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of appropriate public and private agencies and other professional resources where independent educational evaluations may be obtained will be provided upon request.

The school district may ask for the parent's reason why he or she objects to the public evaluation. The school district has a right to initiate an impartial hearing to demonstrate that its evaluation is appropriate or that the evaluation obtained by the parent does not meet the school district criteria. If a hearing officer determines that the district's evaluation was appropriate or the evaluation obtained by the parent did not meet school district criteria, the parent is not entitled to reimbursement at the district's expense.

Any independent evaluation whether paid for by the parent or by the school district, will be reviewed by the CSE and taken into consideration in its final placement determination.

If parents intend to seek funding for the cost of the evaluation they must adhere to the following criteria:

- The parent must request a copy of the board policy prior to seeking an evaluation and reimbursement from the Special Education Office;
- The qualifications of the evaluator and the location of the evaluation shall be the same as the criteria which the district uses when it initiates an evaluation;
- Psychologists must be licensed by the State of New York as clinical psychologists or certified as school psychologists. If certified as a school psychologist, the evaluator must conduct the evaluation in a school setting;
- Other evaluators should be appropriately certified in the area of their specialty by the State Education Department, must have experience in the area of their specialty and must have experience with students of a similar age;
- The evaluation must take place within the boundaries of Nassau or Suffolk counties;
- The tests performed must be norm referenced for individual evaluation appropriate for the age and educational level of the student, and measure the same cognitive, motor, and affective skills as district tests;

POLICY

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- Reimbursement will not be in excess of the reasonable cost of such evaluation, per the fee schedule below. If the parent obtains an IEE that exceeds the fee schedule, the balance, in excess of the amount included in the schedule, would be assumed by the parent, absent of any unusual circumstances. The fee schedule is as follows:

Psychological Evaluation	\$750.00
Neurological Evaluation	\$2500.00
Educational Evaluation	\$850.00
Speech/Language Evaluation	\$420.00
OT Evaluation	\$280.00
PT Evaluation	\$280.00
Psychiatric Evaluation	\$750.00
Neuropsychological Evaluation	\$2600.00
Audiological Evaluation	\$950.00
CAP Evaluation	\$850.00
Assistive Technology Evaluation	\$1000.00

Parents should notify the Director of Special Education that reimbursement for an independent evaluation is being requested no later than ninety (90) calendar days from the date of the initial/review/re-evaluation CSE/CPSE meeting. The Superintendent shall have the authority to authorize payment towards independent evaluations, within budgeted amounts.

The cost of an independent evaluation ordered by an impartial hearing officer shall be at district expense.

Resources for Independent Evaluations

Please contact the WFSD Special Education Department for a current list.