

## INDEPENDENT EDUCATION EVALUATION (IEE)

According to the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* and as found in section 1504-1.3 of NCDPI's *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, if parents disagree with the results of the school district's educational evaluation of their child, they have the right to request an independent educational evaluation (IEE) at public expense.

### DEFINITIONS

- **Independent Education Evaluation** is an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the district responsible for the education of the child in question.
- **Public Expense** means that the district either pays for the full cost of the evaluation or ensures that the evaluation is otherwise provided at no cost to the parent, consistent with NC 1501-2.1.

### GENERAL PROCESS

After the results of the district's evaluation of a student are shared, parents who disagree with those results may follow these steps to request an IEE:

1. Submit a written request to the case manager, EC teacher, administrator, or the district EC administrator.
2. The district will determine whether to (a) grant the IEE and provide a list of independent providers with the district's evaluation criteria *or* (b) deny the IEE and initiate a due process hearing with NCDPI.
3. If the IEE is granted, the parent will give written consent to evaluate and will either (a) select one of the independent evaluators from the district's list *or* (b) propose an evaluator not on the list. Proposed evaluators will be considered and decided upon utilizing the district's established criteria.
4. Once the evaluator is agreed upon the district, a contract for service will be established.
5. The parent will contact the evaluator to schedule the IEE in a timely manner and to schedule any necessary appointments.

### FORMS & RESOURCES

1. OCS- [IEE Request Form](#)
2. OCS- [District IEE Criteria/Parent Information](#)
3. OCS- [IEE Consent Form](#)
4. NCDPI- [Parent Rights & Responsibilities in Special Education](#)
5. NCDPI- [Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities](#)
6. ECAC- [Exceptional Children's Assistance Center](#)

### FAQs

**Can the district ask why the parent disagrees?** YES, the district can ask, but parents aren't required to justify their disagreement. A lack of explanation doesn't impact the process.

**Is there a geographic qualification for evaluators?** YES, except in extraordinary circumstances, evaluators shall be located within and licensed by the State of North Carolina.

**How many independent evaluations may be requested?** ONE IEE at public expense may be considered each time the district completes an evaluation in which the parent disagrees with the results.

*If you have questions about the IEE process, please contact the EC office at 910-455-2211*