

## INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS REGULATION

The Patchogue-Medford Union Free School District has established the following procedures for obtaining Independent Educational Evaluations (IEEs) for children with educational disabilities or children who are referred to the Committee on Special Education because they are suspected of having an educational disability and may, therefore, be in need of special education services.

Parents of disabled children have a right under Federal and State regulations to obtain an IEE at public expense when he or she disagrees with an evaluation already conducted by the District. Regulatory standards are outlined in New York State Regulations of the Commissioner of Education §200.5(g). Additionally, 34 CFR §300.502 of the Federal Regulations specify requirements for IEEs.

The Patchogue-Medford Union Free School District has established reasonable reimbursement rates for independent educational evaluators with required credentials to complete assessments. Absent exceptional circumstances, the District will not pay more than the following rates:

<b><u>EVALUATION TYPE</u></b>	<b><u>REIMBURSED UP TO</u></b>
Audiology Examinations	\$ 225
ADOS Evaluation	\$ 500
Assistive Tech Evaluation	\$ 1,400
Bilingual Educational Evaluation	\$ 300
Bilingual Psychological Evaluation	\$ 875
Bilingual Speech/Language Evaluation	\$ 310
Central Auditory Processing Battery	\$ 800
Educational Evaluation	\$ 300
FBA/BIP	\$ 1000
Neurological Evaluation	\$700
Neuropsychological Evaluation	\$ 3800
Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Evaluation	\$ 200
Ophthalmological Examinations	\$ 200
Psychiatric Evaluation	\$1,500
Psycho-educational Evaluations	\$ 825
Psychological evaluation	\$ 625
Speech and Language Evaluation	\$ 220

**Independent Educational Evaluations Regulation (Continued)****PROCEDURES TO REQUEST AN INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION**

The first step to obtaining an IEE is for the parent(s) to submit a written request identifying which evaluation(s) conducted by the District the parent disagrees with. If the area of question or concern is one that has not thoroughly been investigated by the evaluation already completed, the District may request an opportunity to conduct additional evaluations prior to agreeing to an IEE. Should disagreement with evaluation results persist, the parent(s) may be granted an IEE. Upon receipt of a request for an IEE, the CSE Chairperson will forward an acknowledgement letter of the request to the parent(s) within ten (10) calendar days. The District has the right to approve payment for the requested IEE or initiate an Impartial Hearing to demonstrate that its evaluation is appropriate or, in the case of a parent seeking reimbursement for an evaluation already obtained, that the evaluation obtained by the parent or guardian does not meet school district criteria. If the hearing officer determines that the District's evaluation was appropriate or that the evaluation obtained by the parent did not meet District criteria, the parent or guardian has a right to obtain and submit an IEE to the CSE, but the District is not required to pay for it.

If an IEE is approved, the parent(s) may select any professional, in accordance with this regulation and the accompanying policy, to complete the evaluation provided that they have the appropriate license or certification credentials and that these are on file with the District. The CSE Chairperson will also provide a list of qualified professionals for IEEs to the parent(s) upon request, if available. All approved independent evaluators must possess a current license or certification from the New York State Education Department. Additionally, all evaluations 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 evaluations. Evaluators, to the extent practicable, shall be located in Suffolk County, New York, and any evaluations should take place in Suffolk County. IEEs which do not meet such criteria, are conducted by non-licensed or non-certified evaluators, or those whose credentials do not cover evaluation areas under consideration, will not be paid or reimbursed by the District.

Once approval for an IEE has been obtained and an appropriate evaluator has been selected, the parent(s) may contact the evaluator to begin the assessment process. Parents may provide the CSE Chairperson's contact information to the evaluator in order to arrange for observations in the classroom, staff interviews or other interaction with school staff as part of the evaluation procedure.

Should the costs of an evaluation provided exceed the allotments above or the amount approved as a result of exceptional circumstances, the responsibility for payment beyond the amounts listed belong solely the parent(s). A copy of the evaluation report must be received by the District prior to making payment to the evaluator. The bill for reimbursement should indicate a breakdown of costs (e.g., record review, client interview, test administration, scoring and interpretation and report writing). No payment can be issued without these items.

**Independent Educational Evaluations Regulation (Continued)****LISTING OF QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS**

The Patchogue-Medford Union Free School District will permit the parent(s) to select any independent educational evaluator as long as the qualified professional selected by the parent is a certified and/or licensed evaluator in the area of inquiry. Evaluators, to the extent practicable, shall be located in Suffolk County, New York, and any evaluations should take place in Suffolk County. The District has a list of qualified professionals who are in private practice or are employees of other public agencies from which parents may secure an IEE. This list will be provided to a parent upon request. Evaluators on the qualified professional list already have their credentials on file with the District.

Regulations Adopted:

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