

RULE 342.11 - Independent Educational Evaluations (IEEs)

An Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) is an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the School District of Auburndale. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), parents have the right to request an IEE at public expense if they disagree with an evaluation performed by the District. For the purposes of this policy, "evaluation" refers to procedures used to determine whether a child has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services the child may need.

When a parent requests an IEE, the District is required to either provide the IEE at public expense in accordance with this District policy or to initiate a due process hearing to demonstrate that its District-completed evaluation is appropriate. If the hearing officer finds the School District of Auburndale's evaluation was appropriate, parents may still obtain an IEE, but not at public expense. Only one publicly funded IEE may be requested for each School District of Auburndale evaluation with which the parent disagrees, though parents may obtain further evaluations at their own cost. Should a parent submit results from any privately obtained evaluation, the School District of Auburndale will consider those results as required by law when making decisions about the child.

Procedures for Requesting an IEE at Public Expense

Parents are required to submit a written request for an IEE, including their reasons for objecting to the School District of Auburndale's evaluation. However, failure to provide a written request or reasons for disagreement will not, by itself, disqualify a parent from receiving a publicly funded IEE.

Upon receiving a request for an IEE, the School District of Auburndale will provide parents with a list of names and addresses of qualified IEE examiners located within the area, which may include the resources made available through CESA 5. If a suitable examiner cannot be found locally, the District will help identify one elsewhere in the State of Wisconsin.

Criteria and Requirements for IEE Examiners

The District will not pay for an IEE unless the IEE complies with the following criteria or the parents can show unique circumstances that justify a publicly funded IEE that does not meet the criteria:

- The examiner must hold a valid State of Wisconsin license in a relevant field related to the child's known or suspected disability and have extensive training in the evaluation of the area(s) of concern and be able to interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results. In instances where no "applicable license" exists, the evaluator must provide documentation of extensive and recent training and experience related to the known or suspected disability.
- The examiner must be located within 100 miles of the District and must conduct the evaluation within District boundaries, unless services are unavailable locally.

- Fees charged must be reasonable and not exceed the average daily or hourly rate of similarly qualified District staff, as determined by the Director of Special Education (not to exceed \$400.00, except in cases involving medical doctors or similar professionals, where reimbursement is limited to reasonable and customary charges).
- The examiner must communicate directly with members of the IEP Team and agree to release all results and assessment materials before payment is made.
- If the School District of Auburndale's evaluation included an observation of the child in one or more educational settings, the IEE must include at least one observation in those settings. At least one contact with a general education teacher is required, and additional contacts with other involved staff are encouraged. For evaluations addressing a learning disability, an observation is required both in the general education setting as well as during the child's intervention time.
- The School District of Auburndale is not responsible for reimbursing travel or related costs unless necessary services are not available in the community.

Parents may request an IEE that exceeds the maximum allowable cost if unique circumstances justify the additional expense. If the School District of Auburndale determines no justification exists, it will pay only up to the maximum allowable cost, and any remaining cost will be the responsibility of the parents.

Administrative Oversight and Rights of Adult Students

The Special Education Director, in consultation with the District Administrator and other staff, is responsible for ensuring the School District of Auburndale has procedures in place to receive and respond to parent requests for an IEE, providing information about qualified examiners and the School District of Auburndale criteria, and overseeing responses to requests. When a student with a disability reaches the age of 18 and has not been adjudicated incompetent, that student assumes the rights and responsibilities of a parent under this policy, though both the student and parent will receive required notices as stipulated by law.

Through this policy, the School District of Auburndale is committed to upholding parents' rights under the IDEA and ensuring all evaluations—whether conducted by the School District of Auburndale or an independent examiner—meet rigorous, consistent standards.

Cross References:

Policy 342.11 - Individualized Education Evaluations (IEEs)

Adopted: August 13, 2025