

4321.4-R

REQUESTS FOR INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS AT PUBLIC EXPENSE

PROCEDURES

Upon receipt of a request for an independent educational evaluation at public expense the Director of Pupil Personnel Services shall provide the parent with a copy of the Board's Policy for payment of independent educational evaluations, which shall include:

- The maximum authorized fees for specific tests and evaluations which shall be based on a survey conducted under the direction of the Director of Pupil Personnel Services, conducted at least every two years, that determines the community rate obtaining such evaluations;
- Specifications on the geographic area where such evaluations may take place, which shall be limited to [miles, counties, etc.];
- Minimum qualifications for professionals who administer and interpret various tests, which shall be the same as the qualifications required for all evaluators who conduct evaluations for the District;
- Notification that the parent/proposed evaluator may request a waiver of any of the criteria under the policy where such criteria precludes the parent from obtaining an appropriate evaluation of the child;
- A list of independent evaluators who meet the criteria established by the policy.

If the District authorizes an independent educational evaluation at public expense, the Director of Pupil Personnel Services shall:

- Obtain the name and address of the individual the parents select to conduct the independent educational evaluation and send to the proposed evaluator a contract for the evaluator's signature.
- Inquire as to the availability of any health insurance to offset the cost or a portion of the cost of the independent educational evaluation.
- Failure to have a signed contract between the District and the evaluator selected by the parent may constitute a basis for denying payment for an independent educational evaluation.

If the District declines a parents' request for an independent educational evaluation at public expense and the parents do not agree to withdraw their request, the Director of Pupil Personnel Services shall arrange for an impartial hearing, without delay, to demonstrate that its evaluation was appropriate; that the independent educational evaluation obtained by the parent did not conform to the school district's criteria and/or to demonstrate why the District is not otherwise obligated to pay for the parents' independent educational evaluation.

In the event the School District initiates an impartial hearing and an impartial hearing officer determines that the school district's evaluation is appropriate, or that the evaluation obtained by the parent did not meet school district criteria, the parent has a right to an independent educational evaluation, which the District will consider and review even though it is not at public expense.

IMPARTIAL HEARING OFFICER REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION

If an impartial hearing officer requests an independent educational evaluation as part of a hearing, the Director of Pupil Personnel Services shall arrange, to the extent possible, to have such evaluation completed at public expense in accordance with the criteria established by the Board of Education.

Authority: 8 N.Y.C.R.R. 200.1(z)

8 N.Y.C.R.R. 200.5(g)

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