

MONONA GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy 342.11

INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION POLICY

An independent educational evaluation (IEE) is an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not an employee of the Monona Grove School District. A parent is eligible to receive an IEE at public expense if the parent disagrees with an evaluation that the Monona Grove School District conducted or obtained for the child. For purposes of this policy, “evaluation” means the procedures used to determine whether a child has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services the child needs. “Public expense” means that the Monona Grove School District either pays for the full cost of the evaluation or ensures that the evaluation is otherwise provided at no cost to the parent.

The Monona Grove School District’s evaluation must be complete before a parent may obtain an IEE at public expense. The District’s evaluation is complete when the Monona Grove School District provides the parent with a proper Notice of Evaluation Findings, as required by law. In addition, all IEE’s must meet the Monona Grove School District’s criteria for special education evaluation, which are the criteria that the Monona Grove School District uses when it conducts its own evaluations. Finally, parents may only request one publicly funded IEE for each evaluation that the Monona Grove School District conducts or obtains.

If the Monona Grove School District receives a parent request for an IEE, the Monona Grove School District may pay for the IEE. If the Monona Grove School District does not pay for the IEE, the Monona Grove School District will initiate a due process hearing without unnecessary delay and a hearing officer will decide who is responsible for the IEE costs under relevant state and federal law. Consistent with the parent’s right to an IEE, the Monona Grove School District may also propose mediation. The parents will be responsible for IEE costs if the hearing officer finds that:

- 1) The Monona Grove School District’s evaluation was appropriate; and/or
- 2) The IEE fails to meet the Monona Grove School District criteria for special education evaluations and no unique circumstances justify deviation from those criteria.

A. Procedures to Request an IEE at Public Expense

1. Parents should submit a written request for an IEE to the Director of Special Education & Pupil Services, and should include an explanation of the reasons they object to the evaluation the Monona Grove School District conducted or obtained for the child. The Monona Grove School District, however, will not deny parents a publicly funded IEE solely because they fail to submit a written request, or because they do not provide reasons for requesting an IEE.

2. If a parent requests an IEE, the Monona Grove School District will provide the parents with the following information:
 - a. A list of names and addresses of IEE Examiners located in the Madison metropolitan area. The list will consist of IEE Examiners who, in the judgment of the Monona Grove School District, are qualified to perform the IEE. If a qualified examiner is not located in the area, the Monona Grove School District will identify a qualified examiner located elsewhere.
 - b. A copy of the Monona Grove School District's criteria for special education evaluations, including criteria regarding evaluator qualifications and costs.

B. Evaluation Plan

If a parent notifies the Monona Grove School District before obtaining an IEE, the Director of Pupil Services may recommend that the parent and district develop an evaluation plan. The purpose of evaluation plans is to encourage genuinely independent, unbiased IEE's that are valuable to both the parent and Monona Grove School District staff members of the individualized education program (IEP) team. The Monona Grove School District, however, will not deny or delay a publicly funded IEE because a parent refuses to participate in this process.

If a parent agrees to participate in this process, the parent will work with other members of the child's IEP team to develop and evaluation plan. An evaluation plan may identify the scope of the evaluation and the evaluator, and help to ensure that the IEE will comply with the Monona Grove School District criteria for special education evaluations. In some cases, the Monona Grove School District will contact the evaluator directly to arrange for the IEE on the parent's behalf.

For more information, parents may request a copy of *Information Update Bulletin 99.02, Independent Educational Evaluations (IEE's)* from the Monona Grove School District or from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division of Learning Support: Equity and Advocacy.

LEGAL REFERENCE: WI Statute 115.782 – Evaluations

CROSS REFERENCE: Board Policy 342.1 – Programs for Children With Disabilities

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