



## How To Request an Independent Educational Evaluation

When a student with a disability is receiving or eligible to receive special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the parents have the legal right to request an [Independent Educational Evaluation \(IEE\)](#) if they disagree with the results of the district evaluation.

Thankfully, formally requesting an IEE is pretty simple! You simply must request an IEE in writing. Send an email today saying that you would like to request an independent educational evaluation at the district's expense for your child because you disagree with the evaluation. [Here is an article](#) to browse for reference before you send your email.

Some school districts may contact you and say that they will provide an IEE on the condition that you explain why you disagree with the school's evaluation. It is important to know that you do NOT need to give a list of reasons for why you disagree. That is **NOT** required by the law. Your email should be brief - maybe 2 - 3 sentences and that is all. The school is required to respond promptly to your request.

The school might agree to fund an IEE upon your request, or it could opt to challenge your request through a due process complaint and hearing to prove the validity of its own evaluation. While the school can inquire about your objections to its evaluation, it legally cannot demand an explanation or unduly delay providing the IEE at public expense or initiating the due process for defending its evaluation.

Should the school proceed with due process and the hearing officer concludes that the school's evaluation was appropriate, you still retain the right to an IEE but must cover the expenses yourself.

If public funds cover the IEE, it must meet the same standards as the school's initial evaluation, including criteria such as location and examiner qualifications. These criteria must align with those used by the school for its evaluations. However, the school cannot impose additional conditions or deadlines regarding a publicly funded IEE.

If you would like to learn more about IEEs, check out this [article](#)! Also, if you need help navigating the IEE request process or need more information regarding IEEs, feel free to reach out to [hello@loveyourschool.org](mailto:hello@loveyourschool.org)! We are here to help!

### More Resources:

[Independent Educational Evaluations: What? Why? How? Who Pays? - Whright's Law](#)

[Sec. 300.502 Independent Educational Evaluation - IDEA](#)

[Private evaluations: What you need to know - Understood.Org](#)

[Right to Obtain an Independent Educational Evaluation - Center for Parent Information and Resources](#)

[FAQs: Independent Educational Evaluation - Arizona Department of Education](#)

[Disagree with a school evaluation? An IEE is a great tool. - Law Office of Richard J Murphy](#)