

Bridge Elementary Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) Guidelines

The parent/guardian has the right to obtain an IEE at public expense when the parent disagrees with the assessment obtained by the LEA. Although it can be requested, a parent is not required to provide to the LEA the reason why they disagree with the public evaluation (USBE SER IV.C (3)(a)(c)).

Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) means an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the public agency responsible for the education of the child in question (34 CFR §300.502).

Local Educational Agency (LEA) means the school district, which for use in this document is Bridge Elementary.

Public Expense means the LEA pays for the cost of the evaluation or ensures the evaluation is otherwise provided at no cost to the parent.

Guidelines

Independent evaluator(s) will comply with all state and federal requirements pertaining to the evaluation of students with disabilities, confidentiality requirements, and the criteria set forth in these procedures.

Parents are required to give appropriate release to exchange information between the independent educational evaluator(s) and Bridge Elementary as a condition of Bridge Elementary's agreement to pay the provider for an independent evaluation. This permits the independent evaluator to directly communicate with Bridge Elementary staff that work with the student and the members of the IEP Team and share information with bridge Elementary. The expectation is that the evaluator will obtain and consider school information and observations of the student in the school setting in the evaluation process and the written report.

As for observations, if Bridge Elementary observed the student in conducting the evaluation with which the parent disagrees or if its assessment procedures allow in-class observations, the independent evaluator will be provided with an equivalent opportunity to observe the student in the current educational setting.

The independent evaluator will be expected to produce his/her written report, including original assessment protocols within a reasonable time but not to exceed 60 calendar days, or 45 school days, subject to any contractual arrangement with Bridge Elementary or unusual circumstances that justify an extension of this timeline.

The independent evaluator must agree to release their assessment information and results to Bridge Elementary prior to receipt of payment for services. Since an IEE conducted at the expense of an Bridge Elementary, becomes the property of the Bridge Elementary

(USBE SER IV.C (4)), once received, Bridge Elementary, without unnecessary delay, will provide the copy to the parents. The contracted evaluator will not provide a copy of the results to the parent unless requested by Bridge Elementary.

The results of the IEE will be considered in the determination of eligibility, program decisions, and educational services and placement of the student with disabilities as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. However, an IEE will not control the decisions made by Bridge Elementary.

Although Bridge Elementary may request and pay for the independent evaluator to attend the meeting conveyed to discuss the assessment results, such participation is not required (34 CFR §300.502(c)) as long as Bridge Elementary provides someone who can interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results.

Minimum Credentials/Qualifications for Evaluators

Evaluators chosen to conduct IEEs must meet *all of* the criteria established as follows:

1. The independent evaluator must not be an employee of the Bridge Elementary.
2. The independent evaluator must be certified or licensed by an accredited professional organization or agency that is recognized within the State of Utah representing his or her profession.
3. The independent evaluator should possess comparable credentials to the examiner that conducted the evaluation that is in dispute.
4. The independent evaluator must meet the qualifications and training requirements to administer, score, and interpret the evaluation instrument(s) utilized during the IEE as specified by the test publisher.
5. The independent evaluator must have training and experience in evaluating students of the same age level.
6. The independent evaluator must be able to schedule an evaluation in a timely manner and produce a written report within a reasonable amount of time.

Cost

Evaluators must charge fees for evaluation services, which in the judgment of Bridge Elementary must be reasonable and customary for such evaluations. The cost of an IEE shall be comparable to those costs that Bridge Elementary incurs when it uses its own employees or contractors to perform a similar assessment. The suggested **total** cost of an independent multidisciplinary evaluation is \$1,500.00

The suggested total cost of a single independent evaluation may be guided by the following schedule of costs:

Type of Assessment	Cost
Academic Achievement	\$250 - \$500
Adaptive Behavior	\$250 - \$500

Assistive Technology	\$250 - \$500
Behavioral/Social	\$500 - \$750
Cognitive	\$300 - \$500
Motor	\$250 - \$500
Occupational Therapy	\$250 - \$500
Speech and Language	\$250 - \$500
Transition	\$250 - \$500

Costs above the suggested amounts may be approved if the parent is able to demonstrate that unique circumstances justify the selection of an evaluator whose fees fall outside these criteria. Written prior approval from Bridge Elementary's Director for fees that fall outside of these criteria would need to be obtained.