



Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE): What Parents Need to Know

(Bison Bridge Behavioral Insights Parent Resource — K–12 Edition)



What is an IEE?

An **Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)** is an evaluation conducted by a qualified professional **not employed by the school district**. Parents can request an IEE if they disagree with a school’s evaluation of their child.

IEEs offer a second opinion about your child’s learning, behavior, or developmental needs — and they can provide valuable insight into IEP or 504 Plan decisions.

 **An IEE is a formal process and should not be requested casually.** Before requesting an IEE, it’s important to ask questions about the school’s evaluation, review the results together, and share any concerns. You can request clarification, additional data, or a meeting before moving to this step.

This option exists to protect parents’ rights — not to “challenge” the school, but to ensure students receive the most accurate and meaningful assessment possible.



When Can a Parent Request an IEE?

You can request an IEE **at public expense** (paid for by the district) if:

- The school has conducted a full evaluation
- You disagree with the results or suspect the evaluation was incomplete or inaccurate

You must make the request in writing. The school **must respond** by either:

1. Agreeing to fund the IEE, or
2. Filing for a due process hearing to prove their evaluation was appropriate

⚠ The school **cannot delay** or require you to explain your disagreement in detail.

IEEs are a legal right — but they should be used thoughtfully and for the purpose of better understanding your child, not just as a demand that the school “do more.”

What Can an IEE Include?

IEEs can assess:

- Cognitive functioning and learning style
- Academic achievement
- Emotional, social, and behavioral functioning
- Autism-specific assessments
- Speech-language, occupational, or executive functioning skills

The evaluator must meet the school district’s qualifications and be **independent** — not connected to the original team.

How Does the Process Work?

1. Parent sends a written request for an IEE
 2. The district responds within a reasonable time
 3. If approved, the district provides a list of evaluators — but you can request someone not on the list if they meet qualifications
 4. The evaluation is scheduled and completed
 5. Results are shared with the school and become part of the IEP discussion
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Why Parents Request IEEs

- “The school said my child was ‘average,’ but I see struggles every day.”
- “I needed more answers about behavior and anxiety.”
- “The evaluation was rushed and didn’t reflect what I know about my child.”

IEEs can provide a fuller picture, especially when complex diagnoses or unmet needs are suspected.

Parent Reflection Space

- What concerns do I have about the school's evaluation?
 - Have I asked the team for clarification or more data?
 - Have we discussed other options before moving forward with an IEE?
 - What additional information would help me advocate for my child?
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Important Reminder

You have the right to request an IEE if you disagree with a school evaluation. The results **must be considered** in future IEP or 504 Plan decisions. This is a legal right, but one that should be used when truly needed — to ensure your child's needs are fully understood and supported.

To learn more, visit www.ksde.org or talk with your school's special education coordinator.