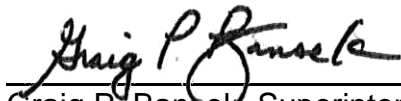


INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION GUIDELINES

1. The district must conduct its own multifactored evaluation before an Independent Educational Evaluation can be provided at public expense.
2. One Independent Educational Evaluation paid for by the school district may be provided for each multifactored evaluation the district conducts.
3. The sources for obtaining an Independent Educational Evaluation paid for by the school district are available from the school district. Any list of providers given by the school district is not exhaustive. The parent may select another evaluator so long as the evaluator meets the district's guidelines.
4. Evaluation instruments and procedures must be current; have acceptable reliability and validity according to professional testing standards; be generally accepted in the field of educational evaluation, and provide information relevant to determining eligibility for special education or for developing an IEP.
5. The evaluation shall be conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the school district responsible for the education of the child. All providers conducting Independent Educational Evaluations must possess state and professional licensure in their respective disciplines. Individuals completing Independent Educational Evaluations must have experience administering and interpreting school-based assessments.
6. Since the cost of the Independent Educational Evaluation is paid by the school district, the criteria under which the evaluation is obtained, including the location of the evaluation and the qualifications of the examiner, must be the same as the criteria that the school district uses when it initiates an evaluation, to the extent those criteria are consistent with the parent's right to an Independent Educational Evaluation.
7. Unless the parent is able to establish unique circumstances that an independent evaluator is unavailable within Ohio or that it would be inconsistent with the parent's right to an Independent Educational Evaluation to require the independent evaluator to hold Ohio licensure or comply with Ohio law, the district requires the evaluation to be conducted within Ohio by evaluators who meet qualifications under Ohio law.
8. Unless the parent is able to establish unique circumstances that it would be inconsistent with the parent's right to an Independent Educational Evaluation, the independent evaluator will comply with the IDEIA and Ohio's Operating Standards related to evaluations. A copy of the requirements is available to the parent upon request or may be obtained through the Ohio Department of Education website.
9. The cost for a publicly funded Independent Educational Evaluation shall not exceed reasonable and customary rates prevailing in the community for similar services by a professional of reasonably comparable skills, experience, and reputation. The maximum allowed cost for an Independent Educational Evaluation is \$3,000 unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent.

10. The district must be provided with a written report of the Independent Educational Evaluation, including a description of the tests and procedures used, and a summary and interpretation of the Independent Educational Evaluation that provided information relevant to determining eligibility for special education or for developing the IEP. The Independent Educational Evaluator(s) must submit results, interpretations, and recommendations to the district's multi-disciplinary team without pre-determining eligibility for services. All assessments must be validated for the age, grade, and disability of the pupil being evaluated.
11. The independent evaluator must provide the district with a current curriculum vitae, detailed invoice itemizing all charges and costs of the Independent Educational Evaluation, the amount of time in hours/minutes spent conducting and preparing the Independent Educational Evaluation and related report, the time spent on any other services billed to the district, and indicating specifically which person or persons performed each task or item billed to the district.
12. The individual needs of a child and unique circumstances may warrant an Independent Educational Evaluation at school district expense when the guidelines are not met. The school district cannot possibly identify the numerous circumstances that may be unique to a situation. The parent may share such unique circumstances with the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee through a meeting or in writing. If the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee determines that the circumstances are not unique, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee will issue prior written notice to the parent. Depending on the nature of the unique circumstances, the parent or the district may pursue dispute resolution procedures available under IDEIA and/or the Operating Standards.

Adopted: October 17, 2012.



Graig P. Banske, Superintendent

Columbia Schools, Columbia Station, Ohio