

SOUTH LANE SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROCEDURES: INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

I. The following procedures will apply to all requests for independent educational evaluations at District expense:

A. Parents of students receiving special education services, pursuant to an IEP, as provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or suspected of having a disability requiring special education services, may request that the District complete an evaluation or re-evaluation of their child at any time.

The District will respond to such requests by initiating the Special Education evaluation process to review screening and performance information to determine if an evaluation or re-evaluation is needed. If needed, an evaluation will be completed. If not needed, parents will receive written notice of refusal to evaluate and be informed of the procedural safeguards available to parents and students.

B. Parents may seek an independent educational evaluation when they are in disagreement with an evaluation completed by the District.

C. Triennial re-evaluations: If the school reviews existing evaluation data on a child:

1. Including evaluations and information provided by the parents of the child;
2. Current classroom-based assessments and observations;
3. Observations by teachers and related service providers; and
4. Prior evaluations

and determines that no additional testing is required in order to determine:

1. Eligibility or non-eligibility for Special Education;
 2. The present levels of performance and educational needs of the child;
- or
3. Whether the student requires supplementary aids or related services

then the parents have the right to request that the District complete an assessment to determine whether the child continues to be a child with a disability. The District is not required to conduct the assessment unless requested to do so by the child's parents. If the parents request additional assessment the District will either complete the requested assessment or initiate due process to demonstrate why additional assessment is not required. If parents do not request additional assessment, they may not seek an independent educational evaluation until the District has had an opportunity to complete an assessment requested by the parents.

D. If parents request an independent evaluation, the Director of Special Programs will be notified:

1. Parents will be provided a copy of the District procedures, including criteria for independent educational evaluations.
2. The District will determine whether to initiate due process to establish the appropriateness of its evaluation, or to approve an independent evaluation.

3. Parents may only request one publicly funded independent evaluation for each evaluation completed by the District.
4. The parents must request the independent evaluation within one calendar year of the date the results of the school evaluation were shared with the parents as documented on the diagnostic summary.

E. If the District agrees to purchase an independent evaluation, an evaluation plan will be developed which specifies the areas to be evaluated and who will complete each assessment. The assessment(s) completed will comply with District criteria for location of the evaluator(s), minimum qualifications of the evaluator(s), costs of the evaluation, and use of approved assessment instruments. Prior Notice of Intent to Evaluate will be provided. Parents will be required to sign Consent to Evaluate and Permission to Obtain or Release Information between the independent educational evaluator(s) and the District.

F. As part of the contracted evaluation, independent evaluators must agree to release their assessment information and results directly to the District prior to the receipt of payment for services. The results of the independent evaluation will be considered in making educational decisions, as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

G. Parents are not required to notify the District that they are obtaining an independent educational evaluation. However, if parents obtain an independent educational evaluation and the District demonstrates through a due process hearing that the evaluation completed by the District was appropriate or that the parents' evaluation did not meet District criteria, the parents will not be reimbursed the cost of the evaluation. If the independent evaluation obtained by the parents meets the District criteria, it will be considered in making an educational decision about the child.

H. When parents request payment for an independent educational evaluation that has already been completed, the Director of Special Programs will be notified:

1. Parents will be provided a copy of the District procedures including criteria for independent educational evaluations.
2. The District will determine whether to initiate formal due process to establish the appropriateness of its evaluation, or to consider payment for the independent evaluation.
3. The parents must request payment for the independent educational evaluation within one calendar year of the date the results of the District evaluation were shared with the parents, as documented in the diagnostic summary.

I. If the District considers paying for an independent educational evaluation, the evaluation must meet District criteria for location of the evaluator(s), minimum qualifications of the evaluator(s), costs of the evaluation, and use of approved assessment instruments.

II. Location Limitations for Evaluators: Evaluators will be located within the Lane County area. Evaluators outside of this area will be approved only on a case-by-case

basis if the parents can demonstrate the necessity of using personnel outside the specified area. Any arrangements beyond the evaluation (i.e. food, lodging, transportation, etc.) are not covered in the cost of the independent evaluation.

III. Minimum Qualifications for Evaluators: Evaluators with credentials other than those listed below will not be approved unless the parents can demonstrate the appropriateness of using an evaluator with other qualifications. Credentials must be current.

| Type of Assessment | Qualifications |
|--|---|
| Academic achievement | Certified Special Education Teacher Licensed Psychologist School Psychologist |
| Adaptive Behavior | Certified Special Education Teacher Licensed Psychologist School Psychologist |
| Assistive Technology | Certified or Licensed Speech/Language Pathologist Certified Special Education Teacher Licensed Occupational Therapist |
| Auditory Acuity Auditory Perception | Licensed or Certificated Audiologist Licensed or Certificated Audiologist |
| Cognitive | Licensed Psychologist School Psychologist |
| Health (including Neurological) | Licensed Physician |
| Motor/Sensory | Licensed Physical Therapist Licensed Occupational Therapist Certified Adaptive Physical Education Specialist |
| Speech and Language | Certified or Licensed Speech/Language Pathologist |
| Social/Emotional/Behavioral | Certified Special Education Teacher Certified School Counselor Licensed Counselor Social Worker (MSW) School Psychologist Licensed Psychologist Licensed Psychiatrist |
| Vision | Licensed Ophthalmologist or Optometrist |

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|-------------------|--|
| Functional Vision | Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired (Master's Degree) |
| Vision Perception | Certified Special Education Teacher School Psychologist |
| Transition | Certified Special Education Teacher |

IV. Cost Limitations for Evaluations: An independent multi-disciplinary evaluation will be limited to a total cost of \$1,500. Single disciplinary evaluations will be limited to the following schedule of cost:

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|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Academic Achievement | \$150 - \$350 |
| Adaptive Behavior | \$100 - \$225 |
| Assistive Technology | \$200 - \$450 |
| Auditory Acuity | \$60 - \$200 |
| Auditory Perception (CAP) | \$100 - \$200 |
| Autism | \$500 - \$700 |
| Cognitive | \$200 - \$450 |
| Health | \$50 - \$150 |
| Neurological | \$500 - \$800 |
| Motor | \$150 - \$275 |
| Sensory/Motor Integration | \$200 - \$350 |
| Speech and Language | \$200 - \$450 |
| Social/Emotional/Behavioral | \$300 - \$500 |
| Vision | \$60 - \$125 |
| Functional Vision | \$60 - \$120 |
| Transition | \$150 - \$350 |

Costs above these amounts will not be approved unless the parents can demonstrate that such costs reflect a reasonable and customary rate for such evaluative services, or if the parents can demonstrate that there are other factors that make the extraordinary costs necessary.

When insurance will cover all or partial costs of the independent evaluation, the District will request that the parents voluntarily have their insurance pay the independent evaluation costs covered by their insurance. However, parents will not be asked to have insurance cover independent evaluation costs if such action would result in a financial cost to the parents including, but not limited to the following:

1. A decrease in available lifetime coverage or any other benefit under an insurance policy;
2. An increase in premiums or discontinuance of the policy; or
3. An out-of-pocket expense such as payment of a deductible amount incurred in filing a claim.

Speech & Language Evaluations

V. Approved Assessment Instruments for Use in Independent Educational

Evaluations: All evaluation instruments must be administered by a qualified examiner, be age appropriate to the child, and administered and scored in conformance with the publisher's instructions. The attached list of tools are approved for use by South Lane professionals and independent evaluators when evaluating South Lane students.