



RFSD Guidelines for Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) Requests

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400-1482 (IDEA), parents are entitled to an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) at public expense if they disagree with an evaluation obtained by the Roaring Fork School District, subject to certain conditions. The IDEA regulations define an IEE as "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 C.F.R. § 300.502(a)(3)(1).

The IDEA regulations give the RFSD two options for responding to a request for an IEE. The RFSD must either: (a) file a request for a due process hearing to show that its evaluation was appropriate; or (b) ensure that an IEE is provided at public expense. Regardless of the option chosen, RFSD will provide parents with these guidelines as well as information about where an IEE may be obtained and the agency criteria applicable to IEEs.

Consistent with these requirements, the Roaring Fork School District has adopted the following criteria for IEEs:

1. In an effort to determine the nature and scope of the requested IEE, parents will be asked to identify the assessments or other components of the RFSD evaluation with which they disagree and state the reasons for their disagreement. However, an explanation is not required and RFSD will not unreasonably delay providing the IEE.
2. The cost of an IEE shall not exceed \$3,000 total (including the cost of the written report and any time associated with answering questions or providing additional information for the child's IEP team) unless there are special circumstances.
3. IEEs shall be conducted by a qualified provider located within the geographic boundaries of the Roaring Fork School District and/or Denver Metro Area.
4. The IEE evaluator shall not be employed by the RFSD or a member school district.¹

¹ As used in this document, the term "assessment" refers to a particular test or examination administered to a child, while the term "evaluation" refers to the body of assessments and other evaluation tools used to determine whether a child has a disability and/or the nature and extent of the special education and related services that the child needs.

² These provisions apply unless parents demonstrate unique circumstances that justify exceeding the allowable cost and/or geographic boundaries. Further, the total fees and costs for each IEE may not be unreasonably excessive, as compared with those customarily charged by qualified examiners within the geographic boundaries where the IEE is to be conducted. Finally, fees for each IEE must be approved by the RFSD in advance.



5. The IEE evaluator must be qualified to perform the requested evaluation and must have knowledge of the area(s) to be evaluated.. A "qualified" examiner is one who meets the following requirements:

- a. The IEE examiner must be trained to administer any assessments and other evaluation tools proposed in accordance with the instructions provided by the producer, and the examiner must be knowledgeable regarding interpretation of the results.
- b. If the RFSD requires that any of the proposed assessments and other evaluation tools be conducted by personnel who hold a particular license issued by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) or the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), the IEE examiner must hold a similar license issued by CDE or DORA (i.e., psychologist, social worker, occupational therapist).

6. RFSD will provide parents with a list of the following approved IEE evaluators; however, this list is not an exhaustive list and parents always have the right to select another evaluator that meets Roaring Fork School District criteria.

Independent Education Evaluation (IEE) Evaluators

1. Behavioral Health and Wellness
3150 North 12th Street
Grand Junction, CO
970-242-5707
bhwgj.com
2. Swann Clinic
Pediatric Psychology Services of Colorado
1001 Grand Ave., #005
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
970-665-4744
<https://www.pediatricpsychologyservices.com/>
3. Wolff Child Psychology
3345 W. 38th Avenue,
Denver, CO 80211
303-500-3407
brian@wolffchildpsychology.com
www.wolffchildpsychology.com



4. Marcia Braden Ph.D., P.C.
214 E Dale, Suite 110
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-633-3773
www.marciabraden.com
5. Cori Ann Stepek, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
Rocky Mountain Neurobehavioral Health, LLC
2629 Redwing Rd, Suite 112
Fort Collins, CO 80526
<https://rockymountainnbh.com>
(970) 568-8600 (office)

7. The IEE shall be conducted and a copy of the IEE report made available to the RFSD, preferably within 60 days of the date the RFSD agrees to fund the IEE at public expense.

8. If the IEE is conducted at public expense, the evaluator must agree in writing to share a complete copy of the report and any supporting data directly with RFSD at the same time as it is provided to parents.

9. In order for RFSD to exchange information with the IEE evaluator, Parent(s) must sign the Authorization to Release Confidential Information.

10. The IEE evaluator may attend the IEP meeting at the request of parents or RFSD. If in attendance, the IEE evaluator is expected to provide verbal and written input, if requested to do so. If the IEE evaluator attends, it is assumed that RFSD will not pay for their time and attendance at the meeting. However, parents may request that the District fund the IEE evaluator's attendance. Upon request, RFSD will consider the request, but has the authority to determine whether it will pay for the evaluator's time.