

PEMISCOT COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION PROCEDURES

I. PARENT REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

- 1. The parent or legal guardian of the disabled student must present his or her request for an independent educational evaluation in writing to the Pemiscot County Special School District. That request will be forwarded to the Director of Special Education. Parents can only ask for an Independent Educational Evaluation in the areas previously assessed in the most recent evaluation of their child and one time per year.**
- 2. When the parent or legal guardian of a student with a disability under IDEA requests an independent educational evaluation, the Director of Special Education shall, without unreasonable delay, provide the parent or legal guardian a copy of this policy and procedure as well as information about where an independent educational evaluation may be obtained and the District's criteria for such evaluations.**
- 3. When the District receives a request from the parent or legal guardian for an independent educational evaluation, the District will, without unreasonable delay and within a reasonable time from the receipt of the request inform the parent or legal guardian that (1) the District will pay for the requested evaluation subject to the requirements of this policy; or (2) will initiate due process to defend the District's evaluation. If the District decides that it will not initiate due process, the District must inform the parent that an independent evaluation will be provided at public expense.**
- 4. Before making the decision indicated in paragraph 3 above, the Director of Special Education may ask the parent or legal guardian for the reason or reasons why he or she objects to or disagrees with the District's evaluation or any component of that evaluation. However, the parent or legal guardian is not required to provide that reason and the District will not use the request or lack of parental response to such a request to unreasonably delay its decision regarding whether to provide the requested independent educational evaluation at public expense or to initiate due process to defend the District's evaluation.**
- 5. If the District's decision is to pay for the independent educational evaluation, the Director of Special Education may offer the parent or legal guardian the opportunity to convene the student's multidisciplinary team to develop an evaluation plan to address the**

areas to be evaluated and the independent evaluators who will assess the student. That plan will comply with the District's criteria for evaluator qualifications, geographic location and costs limitations as specified below in this procedure.

6. Independent evaluators must agree to release the results of their independent evaluations to the District prior to receipt of payment for services if the district is directly paying the evaluator. The independent evaluators must also agree to make all test protocols available to District staff for review when requested. The results of any independent evaluation will be considered by the student's multidisciplinary or IEP team with respect to any decisions involving the provision of a free appropriate public education to the student.
7. The parent or legal guardian may also proceed to arrange for completion of the independent educational evaluation without a multidisciplinary team meeting, but the independent educational evaluation, as completed, must comply with the requirements of this policy before the District is obligated to pay.
8. The parent is responsible for making the arrangements for the Independent Education Evaluation within the guidelines of these procedures and PCSSD Board of Education Policy.

II. PARENT REQUESTS PAYMENT FOR COMPLETED INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS

1. The parent of a student with a disability may obtain an independent evaluation without notification to the District and then request payment for that evaluation.
2. If the parent is requesting payment for an IEE already completed, the parent must notify the Director of Special Education in writing that they are requesting such payment. Upon receipt of that request, the District will provide the parent with a copy of the District's policies and procedures relating to IEEs.
3. Within a reasonable time of the receipt of the request, the District will notify the parent as to whether the District will initiate due process to establish the appropriateness of its evaluation or pay for the IEE.
4. If the district decides to pay for the IEE, the district criteria for the locations of the evaluator(s), the minimum qualifications for evaluator(s), the costs of the evaluation, and the use of approved assessment instruments must be met. If the cost exceeds the District's

cost limitations, the District will inform the parent that the District will pay that portion of the cost that is within the District's limitations, if the District determines that an appropriate IEE could have been obtained within the cost limitations.

5. Any independent educational evaluation obtained by the parent or legal guardian must be consistent with the criteria used by the District in conducting its educational evaluations. Those criteria include, but are not limited to, minimum qualifications for evaluators, geographic locations, and cost limitations as noted below.
6. If the District initiates a due process hearing pursuant to paragraph 3 above and the final decision is that the District's evaluation is appropriate, the parent or legal guardian still has the right to an independent educational evaluation, but the District will not be required to pay for that evaluation.
7. If the parent or legal guardian obtains an independent evaluation at private expense, the results of that evaluation must be considered by the District, if that privately funded independent evaluation meets the District's criteria for evaluations, with respect to any decisions regarding the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

III. LOCAL LIMITATIONS FOR EVALUATIONS

Approved evaluators must be located within 100 miles of Hayti, Missouri. Evaluators outside of this area will be approved only on an exception basis and the parent or legal guardian must demonstrate the necessity of using personnel outside the approved geographic area.

IV. COST LIMITATIONS FOR EVALUATORS

The total cost of a multidisciplinary independent evaluation will be limited to a total cost of (\$1000.00). Single evaluations will be limited to the cost schedule listed below. These same cost limitations apply to the District when it conducts an evaluation. The maximum charges have been established to allow the District and parents to choose from among qualified professionals in the area and is intended to result only in the elimination of excessive fees. Costs above this amount will not be approved unless the parent or legal guardian can demonstrate that such costs reflect a reasonable and customary rate for such evaluation services within the designated geographic area or that the student's unique circumstance justify an evaluation that exceeds the allowable cost criteria. When Medicaid or

other public insurance, provided that the use of that public insurance would not decrease any insurance benefit or otherwise negatively impact the child's or family's insurance coverage. If the child is covered by private insurance, the District may request parental consent to access that private insurance coverage.

V. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR EVALUATORS

Evaluators with credentials other than those listed below will not be approved unless the parent or legal guardian can demonstrate the appropriateness of using other qualifications.

<u>Type of Assessment</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>
Cognition/Cognitive	Licensed Psychologist Certified School Psychological Examiner, or School Psychologist
Adaptive Behavior	Licensed Psychologist Certified Special Education Teacher School Psychological Examiner, or School Psychologist
Achievement	Certified Special Education Teacher or School Psychological Examiner
Speech/Language	Certification or Licensed Speech/Lang. Specialist
Social/Emotional/Behavioral	Certificated Special Education Teacher, School Psychological Examiner, School Psychologist or Social Worker Licensed Psychiatrist or Psychologist
Vision	Licensed Ophthalmologist or Optometrist
Use of Residual Vision and Orientation/Mobility	Certificated Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Visual Perception	Licensed Ophthalmologist or Optometrist Certificated Special Education Teacher, School Psychological Examiner, or School Psychologist Licensed Psychologist

List of Evaluators/Agencies(optional)

Achievement, Adaptive Behavior, Cognitive, Social/Emotional/Behavioral:

Families, Inc., Jonesboro, AR 877-595-8869/870-933-6886

Dr. Ken Callis, Cape Girardeau, MO 573-334-2889

Family Counseling Center, Caruthersville, MO 573-333-5875

Ms. Susan Oldham, ED.S LPC, Blytheville, AR 870-763-2335

Dr. Price Gholson, Kennett, MO 573-888-4447

Kennett Public Schools Diagnostic Center, Kennett, MO 573-717-1132

New Vision Counseling, Cape Girardeau, MO 877-454-8121

Community Counseling Cape Girardeau, MO 573-334-1100

Audiological:

Ken Rubenacker, Kennett, MO 573-888-1199
Sikeston, MO 573-471-7264

The Audiology Center, Cape Girardeau, MO 573-651-3404

SEMO Speech and Hearing Clinic, Cape Girardeau, MO 573-651-2115

Health:

Dr. Douglas Fitzwater, Caruthersville, MO 573-333-0033

Dr. Andrew Beach, Kennett, MO 573-888-0001

Ferguson Medical Group, Sikeston, MO 573-471-0330

Pemiscot County Primary Care Clinic, Hayti, MO 573-359-3660

Motor:

Kenny Rogers Children's Center, Sikeston, MO 573-472-0397

Center for Health and Rehabilitation, St. Francis Medical Center, Cape Girardeau, MO 573-331-5153

PRO of Kennett Rehab Services, Kennett, MO 573-888-9190

Pemiscot Memorial Health Systems, Hayti, MO 573-359-1372

Speech/Language:

Kenny Rogers Children's Center, Sikeston, MO 573-472-0397

Center for Health and Rehabilitation, St. Francis Medical Center, Cape Girardeau, MO 573-331-5153

Health Facilities Rehab Services, Sikeston, MO 573-471-5755

Pemiscot Memorial Health Systems, Hayti, MO 573-359-1372

SEMO Speech and Hearing Clinic, Cape Girardeau, MO 573-651-2115

Vision/Orientation & Mobility:

Eye Care Specialist, LLC, Cape Girardeau, MO 573-335-3577

Rouse Vision Clinic, Kennett, MO 573-888-2884

Kenny Rogers Children's Center, Sikeston, MO 573-472-0397

Allison Whitener, OD, Caruthersville, MO 573-333-3937