



# Renaissance Academy

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Evaluations

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## Educational Evaluations/Independent Evaluations

### 1 GUIDELINES

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An appropriate evaluation, whether conducted by school district staff or persons not employed by the school district, shall consist of the administration of all testing and the use of all assessment procedures required to rule in or rule out the existence of all legally defined disabilities that school staff, parents/guardians, or the evaluator reasonably suspect the child might have.

The evaluation will include testing and assessment techniques that are updated as necessary to provide a formative evaluation. This will include information from school staff familiar with the performance of the child, educational records concerning the child a current documentation and any additional testing deemed necessary by the psychologist to make a complete determination. The evaluator shall review all such sources of information prior to conducting testing and assessment.

Testing and assessment procedures shall be selected and administered to yield valid measurement or assessment of the construction or quality they purport to measure or assess. The evaluator shall administer any testing or assessment procedures in a manner consistent with the requirements and recommendations of the publisher of the test or procedure, if any, and in compliance with applicable and authoritatively recognized professional principles and ethical tenets and shall report any factor that might affect the validity of any results obtained.

The evaluation shall include an observation of the student in an educational setting, unless the student is not then in such a setting, and the evaluator shall obtain information concerning the performance of the student directly from at least one (1) current teacher of the child, unless the child does not have a current teacher.

The evaluator shall hold an active certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education that qualifies the evaluator to conduct the type of evaluation that s/he is conducting of the student. If certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education is not issued for the particular area of professional practice in which the evaluator is

otherwise lawfully engaged, the evaluator shall hold such license or other credentialing as is required for the area of professional practice under Pennsylvania law.

The evaluator shall prepare and sign a full report of the evaluation containing a clear explanation of the testing and assessment results; a complete summary of all test scores, including, for all standardized testing administered, all applicable full scale or battery scores, domain or composite scores, and subtest scores reported in standard, scaled, or T-score format; a complete summary of all information obtained or reviewed from sources other than testing conducted by the evaluator; and specific recommendations for educational programming and, if possible, placement.

A parent/guardian who disagrees with the results or content of an evaluation performed or obtained by the school district may request an independent educational evaluation at public expense. If the request is received verbally, the staff member who receives the request shall immediately inform the parent/guardian that the request must be in writing. If the native language of the parent/guardian is other than English, the requirement that the parent/guardian make his/her request in writing shall be conveyed by whatever means practicable in the native language of the parent/guardian. A written request for an independent educational evaluation at public expense shall be immediately forwarded to the LEA representative or designee.

Within ten (10) school days of receipt of a request for an independent education evaluation in writing from a parent/guardian, the LEA designee shall either:

1. Initiate a due process hearing and notify the parent/guardian in writing that it has done so.
2. Issue to the parents/guardians correspondence containing:
  - a. An assurance that the school district will pay for an independent educational evaluation as long as the evaluation meets all of the requirements of an appropriate evaluation identified in this policy.
  - b. Direction that the LEA shall provide, within a reasonable period of time, information on obtaining the IEE or indication that the LEA shall arrange for the IEE to take place.

The LEA Designee may, upon receipt of the request for an independent educational evaluation at public expense, request that the parent/ guardian state his/her reasons for disagreement with the evaluation conducted or proposed by the school district. It may not require the parents/guardians to do so, however, and the refusal of the parent/guardian to do so shall not delay the process required by this policy.

The LEA Designee shall maintain a list of qualified independent evaluators in each of the various disciplines commonly relied upon to provide education related evaluations and assessments and shall make that list available promptly to any parent/guardian who requests it.