Fact Sheet:

REEVALUATIONS AND INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

What is a reevaluation? A reevaluation occurs at least once every three years. It is a process of reviewing all current information about your child and deciding if he/she continues to need special education and related services. Sometimes more assessments need to be done before the decision for continued eligibility or educational needs can be made.

What is an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)? An IEE is conducted by qualified individuals who are not employees of the school system. Sometimes the school system pays for the independent evaluation and sometimes it is paid for by the parent, depending on circumstances.

The Facts you should know:

- Once your child is in special education, all further evaluations are considered reevaluations.
  - Reevaluations must be completed in a reasonable time frame, but no later than 3 years from the date of the last eligibility determination.
  - There is no 60-day timeline for reevaluations. The reevaluation must be completed by the time the eligibility expires.
  - A reevaluation consists of reviewing all available data and information about your child, including current information you may have in addition to the educational information. After the information is reviewed, the IEP team can determine if your child continues to be eligible for special education OR they can determine that more evaluation is needed to make that determination OR they can determine that they need a full and comprehensive evaluation to make that decision. This decision about reevaluation sometimes happens in a meeting, but not always. A parent can ask to have a meeting to make the decision.
- You will receive written notice of reevaluation. The notice will tell you the team has decided your child (1) continues to need special education and related services, (2) no longer needs special education and related services, or (3) that the team needs more information before making a decision.
  - If more information is needed, the school system will ask for permission from you to reevaluate.
  - Your consent is required to conduct a reevaluation, unless there is no response at all from the parent after multiple attempts to contact the parent. Then the school may go ahead and reevaluate.
  - If this notice indicates no further information is needed, you have the right to request a reevaluation, even if the rest of the team does not believe it is needed.
  - You have a right to have a reevaluation conducted by the school system, annually.
- If you disagree with the team's decision as to your child's continued eligibility, you may use Dispute Resolution procedures to try to change the decision.
- If you disagree with the results of an evaluation conducted by the public school, they may request an **Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)** paid for by the public school.
  - The public school must honor the request and provide the names of those that can conduct the independent evaluation or request a due process hearing to explain why their evaluation is appropriate.
  - You may choose an evaluator other than those on the school list, but the school must agree and approve of the evaluator.
  - You do not have the right to an IEE at the public expense until the system has had the opportunity to conduct its own evaluation.
- You may provide your own evaluations for the team to consider during the eligibility process.
  - This evaluation can happen before or after the system's evaluation.
  - The school system must *consider* the information provided through an independent educational evaluation, although they are not obligated to follow the recommendations.

Tips for Families:

- ✓ **Always put your request for a reevaluation in writing. Give copies to your child's teacher, principal, and the special education director.**
- ✓ **Share any reports or evaluations about your child that you have from other programs or professionals, if you are comfortable doing so.**
- ✓ **Ask how you will be involved or give input during the reevaluation process.**
- ✓ **Ask questions to help you understand what to expect, such as:**
    - Why do you want to reevaluate my child?
    - What will happen if my child is NOT reevaluated? Will he or she still get help for the problems that have been identified?
    - What do you think you will learn from the reevaluation?
    - What kinds of test will be used? What areas will be tested?
    - Will information from classroom observations and my child's teachers be included?
    - Who will evaluate my child? Has the evaluator had experience testing children who are similar to my child?
    - Will my child's disability make it hard to obtain valid test scores in any area?
    - Does my child need a translator or interpreter? (Testing must be done in a child's native language or sign language if needed.)
    - When will I receive a written copy of the reevaluation results?
    - What can I do if I do not agree with the reevaluation results?
- ✓ **Ask for a copy of the reevaluation report if one is not provided.**
- ✓ **Ask to have the reevaluation results explained to you if you don't understand them.**
- ✓ **Request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) if you disagree with the school's testing. Put your request in writing, including a statement about why you disagree with the school's evaluation. Do not get the evaluation completed until the school system agrees to pay for it so that you don't have to pay the bill yourself.**

Where to go for more information:

Parent to Parent of Georgia
770 451-5484 or 800-229-2038
www.parenttoparentofga.org

Georgia Department of Education, Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports
404 656-3963 or 800-311-3627 and ask to be transferred to Special Education
http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx

Georgia Department of Education Implementation Manual
http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCImpMan
(See chapter on transition from early intervention to public school.)

Additional resources: Contact the **Special Education Director** for your school system.

The information contained in this document is a summary and does not provide every detail, exception or circumstance. Please refer to other resources or your local system for complete information. Nothing in this document is intended to state new law or supplant any federal or state laws, regulations or requirements.