

*Massachusetts*



*For Your Reference ...*

*Updated September 2013*

## ***INDEPENDENT EDUCATION EVALUATIONS (IEEs)***

The following pages include important special education administration information regarding:

Overview of Team Evaluation Services .....	Pages 1 and 2
Allowable Rates/Fees for Team Evaluation Services .....	Page 2
Hospital Cost-to-Charge Ratios for IEEs .....	Page 3
Massachusetts Sped Regulations pertinent to IEEs .....	Pages 4 & 5
2013 HHS Poverty Guidelines .....	Page 6

***Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education***



# Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education

## OVERVIEW OF 114.3 CMR: DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE & POLICY 114.3 CMR 30:00 TEAM EVALUATION SERVICES

September 2013

### Major points ...

30.01 (1) ... governs rates of payment by governmental units for TEAM Evaluation Services, as mandated by MGL.c.71B and 603 CMR 28.00, provided to publicly-aided individuals by **authorized professionals** (*see 30.02 below*).

30:01 (3) ... **excludes rates of payment to hospitals**, community health centers and mental health centers (*see page 3 of this Overview*)

### 30:02 Definition of Authorized Professional:

- Medical Assessment:** A **pediatrician or other physician** (*other than an intern, resident, fellow, or house officer*) who is licensed to practice by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Physicians.
- Psychological Assessment:** **Licensed psychologist** (*licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Psychologists*)  
or  
A **school psychologist** (*certified/licensed by the Mass DESE*)
- Home Assessment:** A **social worker** (*w. Master's degree in social work & who is licensed by the MA Board of Registration of Social Workers*)  
or  
A **nurse** (*registered by the MA Board of Registration in Nursing*)  
or  
A **counselor** (*w. a Master's degree in counseling education, counseling psychology, or rehabilitation counseling*)
- Rehab Services (PT):** A **physical therapist** (*licensed by the Board of Allied Health Professions*)
- Rehab Services (OT):** An **occupational therapist** (*licensed by the Board of Allied Health Professions*)
- Rehab Services (Sp/Lang):** A **speech/language therapist** (*licensed by the Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology*)
- Audiological Services:** An **audiologist** (*licensed by the Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology*)
- Educational Assessment:** A **teacher** (*certified by the MA Department Elementary and Secondary Education*)

..... continued .....

30:03 (3) ... **Written Assessment Report** ... in connection with a Team Evaluation Assessment is considered an administrative duty associated with service and, in accordance with 114.3 CMR 30.03(2), **no additional payment will be received.**

**30:04 Allowable Fees**

Listed below are current fees applicable to TEAM services. Most of these current fees do not appear in the TEAM regulation, with the exception of the Home Assessment and Educational Assessment. They will appear in a specific regulation relating to that service, e.g. Psychologist (114.3 CMR 20.00) and PT/OT/Speech/Audiologist (112.3 CMR 39.00). These regulations may be found at [www.mass.gov/dhcfp](http://www.mass.gov/dhcfp) under "Regulations." You may also call DHCHP at (617) 988-3100.

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>CURRENT FEE</b>
<b>Home Assessment</b>	<b>\$80.37 flat fee</b> <b>\$32.15 (for participation at Team Meeting)</b>
<b>Educational Assessment</b>	<b>\$262.91 (includes written report)</b>
<b>Vocational Interest Evaluation</b>	<b>\$74.94/hour – maximum 3 hours</b>
<b>Educational Achievement Test</b>	<b>\$74.94/hour</b>
<b>Intelligence Testing only</b>	<b>\$74.94/hour – approx. 2 hours</b>
<b>Personality Evaluation (Projective)</b>	<b>\$74.94/hour – approx. 4 hours</b>
<b>Intellectual &amp; Personality Eval.</b>	<b>\$74.94/hour – approx. 6 hours</b>
<b>Assessment of Brain Damage</b>	<b>\$74.94/hour – approx. 4 hours</b>
<b>Neurobehavioral Interview</b>	<b>\$74.94/hour* (Range: 1 – 2 hours)</b>
<b>Comprehensive Neuropsych.</b>	<b>\$74.94/hour* (Range: 8 – 12 hours)</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>\$74.94/hour* (Range: 2 – 4 hours)</b>
<b>Physical Therapy Evaluation</b>	<b>\$52.16/hour (Maximum of 3 hours)</b>
<b>Occupational Therapy Evaluation</b>	<b>\$52.16/hour (Maximum of 3 hours)</b>
<b>Comprehensive Sp. Therapy Eval.</b>	<b>\$52.16/hour (Maximum of 4 hours)</b>

Updated September 2013

\* can be billed in half hour increments

**NOTE:** OT, PT & Speech evaluation rate increases to \$60/hour if performed out-of-office.

The full text of 114.3 CMR 30:00 (Team Evaluation Services) can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/eohhs/eohhs-regs/114-3-39.pdf>

**See Massachusetts Special Education Regulations re. Independent Education Evaluations on page 4 of 6**

***Hospital Cost to Charge Ratio for Team  
Evaluation Services***

*(from the MA Office of Health Care Finance and Policy ... Outpatient Cost to Charge Ratios)  
Rates provided as of September 2013*

<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF CHARGE</b>
Baystate Medical Center .....	37.73%
Berkshire Medical Center .....	36.35%
Boston Medical Center .....	42.66%
Cambridge Health Alliance .....	53.06%
Cape Cod Hospital .....	33.13%
Children's Hospital .....	50.51%
Franciscan Hospital for Children .....	70.52%
Hallmark Health Systems .....	30.74%
HealthAlliance Hospitals, Inc. ....	26.69%
Mass General Hospital .....	28.00%
MetroWest Medical Center .....	32.11%
Morton Hospital .....	35.58%
Nashoba Valley Medical Center .....	25.97%
North Shore Medical Center .....	24.04%
South Shore Hospital .....	47.82%
Southcoast Health Systems .....	36.01%
Steward St. Anne's .....	26.24%
Tufts Medical Center .....	34.98%
UMass Medical Center .....	34.71%

*Massachusetts*



***Highlights & bold print within highlights provided by Massachusetts ASE***

(5) **Independent education evaluations.** Upon receipt of evaluation results, if a parent disagrees with an initial evaluation or reevaluation completed by the school district, then the parent may request an independent education evaluation.

(a) All independent education evaluations shall be conducted by qualified persons who are registered, certified, licensed or otherwise approved and who abide by the rates set by the state agency responsible for setting such rates. Unique circumstances of the student may justify an individual assessment rate that is higher than that normally allowed.

(b) The parent may obtain an independent education evaluation at private expense at any time.

(c) Public funding of independent education evaluations - When the parent requests public funding for an independent education evaluation, the district shall abide by the following provisions for a sliding fee scale:

1. **If the student is eligible for free or reduced cost lunch or is in the custody of a state agency with an Educational Surrogate Parent appointed in accordance with federal law, then the school district shall provide, at full public expense, an independent education evaluation that is equivalent to the types of assessments done by the school district.** No additional documentation of family financial status is required from the parent.
2. If the family financial status is not known, the district shall offer the parent information about the sliding fee scale and the opportunity to provide family income information to determine if the family may be eligible for public funding of all or part of the costs of an independent education evaluation. Provision of financial information by the family is completely voluntary on the part of the family. The lack of financial information provided by the family will disqualify the family from such additional public funding of all or part of the costs of an independent education evaluation under 603 CMR 28.04(5)(c) but shall not limit the rights of parents to request public funding under 603 CMR 28.04(5)(d).
3. If the family agrees to provide financial information, such information shall include anticipated annual income of the family, including all sources of income and verifying documents. Financial information shall be reviewed by the district, shall be kept confidential during review by the district, shall not be copied or maintained in any form at the district except to note that information was provided and reviewed and met or did not meet sliding fee scale standards. Financial documents shall be promptly returned to the parent upon the district's determination of financial income status.
4. The district shall consider family size and family income information in relation to Federal Poverty Guidelines and shall contribute public funds to the costs of the independent education evaluation according to the following standards:
  - (i) **If the family income is equal to or less than 400% of the federal poverty guidelines, the district shall pay 100%** of the costs of an independent education evaluation. (*see next page*)

(ii) **If the family income is between 400% and 500% of the federal poverty guidelines, the district shall pay 75%** of the costs of an independent education evaluation. (*see next page*)

(iii) **If the family income is between 500% and 600% of the federal poverty guidelines, the district shall pay 50%** of the costs of an independent education evaluation. (*see next page*)

(iv) **If the family income is over 600% of the federal poverty guidelines, the district shall have no obligation to cost-share with the parent.** (*see next page*)

5. When the parent seeks and receives public funding for an independent education evaluation under these provisions, the parent may request independent assessments in one, more than one, or all of the areas assessed by the school district.
6. The right to this publicly funded independent education evaluation under 603 CMR 28.04(5)(c) continues for 16 months from the date of the evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

(d) If the parent is requesting an independent education evaluation in an area not assessed by the school district, the student does not meet income eligibility standards, or the family chooses not to provide financial documentation to the district establishing family income level, the school district shall respond in accordance with the requirements of federal law. The district shall either agree to pay for the independent education evaluation or within five school days, proceed to the Bureau of Special Education Appeals to show that its evaluation was comprehensive and appropriate. If the Bureau of Special Education Appeals finds that the school district's evaluation was comprehensive and appropriate, then the school district shall not be obligated to pay for the independent education evaluation requested by the parent.

(e) Whenever possible, the independent education evaluation shall be completed and a written report sent no later than 30 days after the date the parent requests the independent education evaluation. If publicly funded, the report shall be sent to the parents and to the school district. The independent evaluator shall be requested to provide a report that summarizes, in writing, procedures, assessments, results, and diagnostic impressions as well as educationally relevant recommendations for meeting identified needs of the student. The independent evaluator may recommend appropriate types of placements but shall not recommend specific classrooms or schools.

(f) Within ten school days from the time the school district receives the report of the independent education evaluation, the Team shall reconvene and consider the independent education evaluation and whether a new or amended IEP is appropriate.

***See 2013 HHS Poverty Guidelines on page 6 of 6***

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# 2013 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family or Household	(Annual)	(Monthly)
1	\$11,490	\$957.50
2	15,510	1,292.50
3	19,530	1,627.50
4	23,550	1,962.50
5	27,570	2,297.50
6	31,590	2,632.50
7	35,610	2,967.50
8	39,630	3,302.50
For each additional person, add	4,020	- - -



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