

281—41.148(256B,34CFR300) Placement of children by parents when FAPE is at issue.

41.148(1) General. An LEA or AEA is not required to pay for the cost of education, including special education and related services, of a child with a disability at a private school or facility if that agency made FAPE available to the child and the parents elected to place the child in a private school or facility. However, the public agency must include that child in the population whose needs are addressed consistent with rules 281—41.131(256,256B,34CFR300) to 281—41.144(256,256B,34CFR300) and Iowa Code section 256.12.

41.148(2) Disagreements about FAPE. Disagreements between the parents and a public agency regarding the availability of a program appropriate for the child, and the question of financial reimbursement, are subject to the due process procedures in rules 281—41.504(256B,34CFR300) to 281—41.520(256B,34CFR300).

41.148(3) Reimbursement for private school placement. If the parents of a child with a disability who previously received special education and related services under the authority of a public agency enroll the child in a private preschool, elementary school, or secondary school without the consent of or referral by the public agency, a court or an administrative law judge may require the agency to reimburse the parents for the cost of that enrollment if the court or administrative law judge finds that the agency had not made FAPE available to the child in a timely manner prior to that enrollment and that the private placement is appropriate. A parental placement may be found to be appropriate by an administrative law judge or a court even if it does not meet the state standards that apply to education provided by the SEA and LEAs.

41.148(4) Limitation on reimbursement. The cost of reimbursement described in subrule 41.148(3) may be reduced or denied in any of the following cases.

a. At the most recent IEP team meeting that the parents attended prior to removal of the child from the public school, the parents did not inform the IEP team that they were rejecting the placement proposed by the public agency to provide FAPE to their child, including stating their concerns and their intent to enroll their child in a private school at public expense;

b. At least ten business days, including any holidays that occur on a business day, prior to the removal of the child from the public school, the parents did not give written notice to the public agency of the information described in paragraph 41.148(4)“*a*”;

c. If, prior to the parents’ removal of the child from the public school, the public agency informed the parents, through the notice requirements described in paragraph 41.503(1)“*a*,” of its intent to evaluate the child, including a statement of the purpose of the evaluation that was appropriate and reasonable, but the parents did not make the child available for the evaluation; or

d. Upon a judicial finding of unreasonableness with respect to actions taken by the parents.

41.148(5) Exceptions. Notwithstanding the notice requirement in paragraphs 41.148(4)“*a*” and “*b*,” the cost of reimbursement:

a. Must not be reduced or denied for failure to provide the notice if:

(1) The school prevented the parents from providing the notice;

(2) The parents had not received notice, pursuant to rule 281—41.504(256B,34CFR300), of the notice requirement in paragraphs 41.148(4)“*a*” and “*b*”; or

(3) Compliance with paragraphs 41.148(4)“*a*” and “*b*” would likely result in physical harm to the child; and

b. May, in the discretion of the court or an administrative law judge, not be reduced or denied for failure to provide this notice if:

(1) The parents are not literate or cannot write in English; or

(2) Compliance with paragraphs 41.148(4)“*a*” and “*b*” would likely result in serious emotional harm to the child.

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