

Illinois State Board of Education
Department of Special Education Operational Support
Attn: Complaint Coordinator
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Submitted by: -----

Description of Alleged Violations and Supporting Facts:

Rockford School District 205 has denied ----- Free Appropriate Public Education by failing to implement his Individualized Education Program as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Despite communications and requests for services to be delivered he has not received any speech services as outlined in his IEP from the start of the school year beginning on August 28, 2024 to date.

09/17/2024:

An E-mail was sent to Principal ----- at ----- Elementary School stating my concern that -----'s speech and language services had not yet started. Also, -----'s classroom teacher had told me he was on a waitlist for speech and language services after I inquired about when his IEP minutes were being met. I stated it was unacceptable that I was not notified in writing as it was the 14th day of school.

09/19/2024:

Principal ----- replied to my e-mail that she contacted the district about my concern.

09/20/2024:

On Friday, September 20th I spoke with Special Education Program Administrator ----- on the phone after requesting a call back from a district administrator on 9/17/24. My call was regarding my son, -----, a 2nd grade student at ----- Elementary School, not receiving speech and language services 17 days into the school year, without any written notice that he had been placed on a waitlist for services. I was told he was placed on a waitlist due to the fact the school district did not have adequate speech pathologists employed to deliver services.

09/20/2024:

After the telephone conversation, an e-mail was sent to Ms. ----- requesting the district cover the cost or reimbursement of outside speech services, which we privately secured through UW Heath System. This was requested to prevent learning loss and progress made toward IEP goals, as no timeline for filling the position could be given by Ms. -----.

09/23/2024:

I received a letter in the US mail from Rockford School District 205 stating they are unable to deliver speech and language services that are listed in my child's IEP due to inability to staff speech and language pathologist positions. (See attached letter).

09/30/2024:

I received an e-mail from District Administrator ----- acknowledging receipt of my e-mail sent on 09/20/24 and that she would be in touch shortly.

10/10/2024:

I received an e-mail from District Administrator ----- stating the district was denying my request for compensation or reimbursement for outside speech therapy. It further stated the district was anticipating having adequate speech and language pathologist in the next few months, if not sooner. As soon as possible, the IEP team, including the speech and language pathologist, would convene to discuss the request for compensatory time.

11/11/2024:

Complaint sent to ISBE for failure to notify in writing in a timely manner that speech and language services were not implemented within the first 10 days of the school year, as well as failure to provide speech and language services as specified in -----'s Individualized Education Program.