

ISBE Responses to Questions Regarding 34- 54 and 34-57 Form Updates

January 2026

Article 14-8.02(g) of the School Code of Illinois (ILCS) requires the development of uniform notices within special education to be used by all school districts. The 34-57 Required Notice and Consent forms have been developed to obtain required informed consent from parent(s)/guardian(s) as well as provide proper parent/guardian notification of specific types of proposed or refused actions for a child being considered for or receiving special education and related services. The forms and procedures incorporate various requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and 23 Illinois Administrative Code (IAC) 226.

As the 34-54 IEP forms are template forms, the district has the discretion to make changes to the version of the form that they utilize at any time. Districts who use their own versions of the 34-54 IEP Forms must ensure that the forms utilized include all required regulatory components.

Q1: The [Explanation of ISBE 34-57 Form Changes](#) states that, per the updates to Form 34-57F, districts are not required to draft an IEP/convene an IEP meeting prior to obtaining informed consent for the initial provision of special education services. Does this mean that districts must obtain parental consent for the initial provision of special education services prior to drafting the IEP? If district practice is to draft the IEP prior to obtaining consent, does this need to change?

A1: No, the changes to 34-57F do not require that parental consent be obtained prior to drafting the initial IEP. The relevant language was updated to be consistent with 34 CFR 300.300(b)(3)(iii), which provides that the district is not required to convene an IEP Team meeting or develop an IEP for the child if the parent fails to respond to a request for, or refuses to consent to, the initial provision of special education and related services. That said, this change does not prevent districts from agreeing to develop the IEP prior to obtaining consent.

In conjunction with this, the language in 34-57F was updated to clarify that, in the scenario where the IEP is developed prior to the provision of consent, consent is still necessary for special education services to commence generally.

Q2: The Consent for Initial Evaluation (34-57B) and Consent for Reevaluation (34-57C) forms now include language regarding the waiver of the three-day draft requirement. How and when should this section be used? Is it only to be completed when applicable and otherwise left blank?

A2: Yes, this section should only be completed when applicable and otherwise be left blank. An example of when this may be appropriate is when a district is conducting the Identification of Needed Assessments, Eligibility Determination, and IEP Meeting on the same day or in a series of days. The waiver should not be completed unless the Eligibility Determination and/or IEP Meeting has already been scheduled and will occur in less than three-school days from the provision of consent for the evaluation.

Districts may consider using similar language to obtain consent to waive the three-day draft requirement in situations where evaluations have been completed and the district intends to convene the Eligibility Determination and, if appropriate, the IEP Meeting on the same day. Please consult your legal counsel to determine what the district needs to do to meet its obligations based on the individual situation.

Please note that, when consent to waive the three-day draft requirement is provided, the district is still obligated to provide draft paperwork ahead of the meeting. It is only the three-day timeline that is being waived, not the right to draft paperwork. Further, a parent/guardian providing consent to waive the three-day draft requirement only applies to that upcoming meeting, it does not constitute a general waiver of the three-day timeline for all future drafts.

Finally, ISBE reminds districts that, in situations where the Identification of Needed Assessments, Eligibility Determination, and/or IEP Meeting may be scheduled in the same day or week, the development and provision of draft documentation must not result in the predetermination of eligibility and/or special education services. As above, districts should consult with their legal counsel to ensure they are meeting the requirement to provide copies of all evaluations and collected data / written material that will be considered at the meeting without making any predeterminations.

Q3: The updated [Instructions for Required Notice and Consent Forms](#) states, regarding Form 34-57F, a public agency may not use a parent's refusal to consent to one service or activity to deny the parent or child any other service, benefit, or activity of the public agency. Does this mean that a parent can consent to some but not all services (i.e., pick and choose what special education services in the IEP the child will receive)?

A3: No, this language is not meant to allow a parent to consent to specific special education services while withholding consent to other special education services. This language does not create a new standard, rather it reflects pre-existing language in the federal regulations at 34 CFR 300.300(d)(3).

Q4: Regarding the creation of Form 34-57P, are districts required to convene Identification of Needed Assessments Meetings? Does this Notice need to be sent if multiple meetings, such as the Identification of Needed Assessments and Eligibility Determination, are being held on the same day?

A4: Yes, per 23 IAC 226.110(c)(3), if an evaluation is to be conducted, the district shall convene a team of individuals (including the parent) having the knowledge and skills necessary to administer and interpret evaluation data, and the team shall identify the assessments necessary to complete the evaluation. Further, if a district is holding multiple conferences for which the provision of official notice is required on the same day, all applicable 34-57 Notice Forms must be sent.

Q5: When are districts expected to start using the updated forms? What if there is a delay with the district's third-party vendors to have the forms ready for district use? Do any updates need to be made to the district's handbook, website, and/or materials provided in person?

A5: As noted at the top of this document, 105 ILCS 5/14-8.02(g) requires the development of uniform notices within special education to be used by all school districts. As such, districts are expected to use the current/most recent version of the 34-57 Required Notice and Consent Forms.

ISBE recognizes that in certain circumstances there may be some delay in implementation but recommends that districts have updated forms available as soon as possible. In the interim, districts should take steps to ensure that whatever forms are used reflect the updated requirements, even if the updated form itself is not available for use. This may be done by supplementing the prior version of the applicable form, including additional language to the parent in writing via email, or otherwise. As always, district should consult with their own legal counsel to determine how best to meet their obligations, including any necessary updates due to the Form changes.

Q6: At the top of the Goals/Objectives page, there is a new space for the date(s) the parent will be provided the progress reports. What is the appropriate response for this? What if the dates need to be changed?

A6: As noted in the [Explanation of ISBE 34-54 Form Changes](#), this change was made based on 34 CFR 300.320(a)(3)(ii), the IEP must include a description of "When periodic reports on the progress the child is making toward meeting the annual goals...will be provided." As such, this section should be completed to reflect when the IEP team plans to provide IEP goal progress reports for each goal. If the progress reporting

schedule is changed (e.g., will be reported on a trimester schedule instead of quarterly), the IEP should be amended to reflect this change.

Q7: Why were the Domain Categories changed? Functional Performance was removed – does this mean we are not supposed to do these assessments anymore?

A7: Both the [34-57BC](#) and [34-54A](#) Forms were updated, as noted in the respective Explanation of ISBE [34-57](#) and [34-54](#) Form Changes, to align the names of the domain categories to how they are stated in the federal regulations. The “Functional Performance” domain was removed as a stand-alone domain because it is not included in the corresponding federal regulation at 34 CFR 300.304(c)(4). That said, functional assessments can and should be included within other domains as appropriate (e.g., Communicative Status, Motor Abilities, Social/Emotional Status, etc.).