



Be your child's guide

Your Child's Educational Rights



You have state and federal legal rights when it comes to your child's education. You have the right to:

- ▶ Expect a **Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** for your child.
- ▶ Request an evaluation (no cost to you) or **provide/decline permission to evaluate (in writing)**. If your child receives special education services, the school must re-evaluate every 3 years. You can request a re-evaluation more often (but not more than 1x year).
- ▶ Ask for an **independent educational evaluation (IEE)** (no cost to you) if you disagree with the school's evaluation results; school must inform you how to obtain the evaluation and of their criteria.
- ▶ **Be fully informed:** understand what's being proposed, understand what the evaluations mean, understand their right to refuse consent for evaluation, and how to exercise your rights under federal law (IDEA).
- ▶ **Review your child's records & receive copies.** You can inspect and review, request explanations, request copies, and request that your representative (advocate/lawyer) be have access. Schools must comply without "unnecessary delay" (within 45 days).

Your Role In The IEP Process



You are the expert on your child - the most important member of the IEP team. It is your right to:

- ▶ Call an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.
- ▶ Be fully informed about programs and progress including progress reports, parent-teacher conferences, observing in the classroom, and access to staff.
- ▶ Actively participate as an equal member of the team and ask questions. Never be afraid to ask questions.
- ▶ Agree or disagree with the other members of the team. When you and school don't agree- *try hard to find a compromise*. Otherwise, disputes are resolved through:
 - Resolution process • Mediation • Due process complaint
 - Due process hearing • State complaints
- ▶ Take the prepared IEP home to review it before signing.
- ▶ Ask for a continuation meeting if you're not satisfied or comfortable and do not sign an IEP you do not agree with.
- ▶ Bring a person (or more than 1) to the meeting; others who have knowledge or expertise in your child, friends, family, an advocate, etc.
- ▶ Receive all service and supports as listed on the IEP and ensure your child makes "appropriate progress."