

A Summary of Some Parents' Rights under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2004)

- ❖ Parents have the right to review and obtain copies of all of their child's school records, assessments, and reports. You should request copies be given to you before the IEP meeting for you to review.
- ❖ Parents have the right to be notified in writing before the IEP meeting of the date and time of the meeting and who will attend. You may request an IEP meeting be rescheduled if you or someone who you want to have accompany you to the meeting are unable to attend on the date and time suggested by the school district.
- ❖ Parents have the right to invite anyone to attend the IEP meeting who has knowledge or expertise regarding their child (for example, an expert, friend, relative, advocate, lawyer). You must notify the school district in advance of who will be in attendance.
- ❖ In general, anyone who attends the IEP meeting must have knowledge of the child or programs and services that may be recommended for the child. You should make sure that someone who represents and can act on behalf of the district administration in the IEP process will attend the meeting.
- ❖ Parents may tape record the IEP meeting as long as they notify the school district at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
- ❖ Parents are equal participants with the school district in developing the IEP. You may give input on your views of your child's strengths, weaknesses, and educational needs. You may write goals and objectives for the IEP and/or suggest changes in goals and objectives written by your IEP team.
- ❖ Parents may request that the IEP clearly specify types, amounts, duration, and frequency of services. You may request that vague terms like "small group" be clearly defined (for example, you might request that "small group" be defined as 3 or fewer children).
- ❖ Parental consent is required before the district may implement the IEP. You do not have to give your consent to the IEP at the IEP meeting. You may sign that you are "in attendance" and request a complete copy of the IEP document to take home and review. You do not have to consent to the entire IEP. You can approve parts of the IEP and identify (in writing) items that are not resolved and will be followed up at another meeting.
- ❖ When the IEP is signed by the parents and school district, it is a legal document. The district must provide the programs and services as specified in the IEP, and the district may not change the services or your child's placement without an IEP meeting to modify the existing IEP.
- ❖ IEP meetings must be held at least once a year. You have the right to request an IEP meeting by held whenever you think it is necessary to discuss your child's progress, programs, or services.