

Special Education Rights of Parents and Students

Procedural Safeguards



This resource is intended as a brief overview of some of the special education rights of parents and students. Please reference the complete [procedural safeguards](#) manual for more details.



Notice of Procedural Safeguards

Schools must provide a written explanation of your rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state laws.



Parent Participation

You have a right to participate in meetings about your student's education, including Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.



Confidentiality

Schools must ensure the protection of any personally identifiable data, information, and records collected or maintained by the school.



Informed Consent

Prior to evaluating or providing services for the first time, the school must seek and receive your consent. Consent is voluntary, must be in writing, and can be revoked at any time.



The school must give written notice before it initiates or changes your student's placement, identification, evaluation, or provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).



Independent Education Evaluation

If you disagree with the school's evaluation results, you have the right to request an independent education evaluation of your student by someone who's not a school employee.



Access to Educational Records

You have the right to see and get an explanation of your student's education records.



Dispute Resolution Options

IDEA provides you with options to formally dispute with the school if you disagree about what is appropriate, including: mediation, a state complaint, or a request for a due process hearing.