



PARENTS' RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW

The rights printed here have been drawn from issues of the Federal Register. They appeared in the Montgomery County (Maryland) Association for Children with Learning Disabilities newsletter. We have been granted permission to copy these rights to be used as a source of help and information to parents.

- **The RIGHT** to know what the policies are regarding storage, retention or destruction of records on your child and to review and inspect these records.
- **The RIGHT** to know who else, besides yourself, can inspect these records and to know all places where information on your child is stored.
- **The RIGHT** of interpretation of records on your child and to have a representative of your choosing inspect these records.
- **The RIGHT** to have your permission granted before inspection is granted to anyone other than officials and agents of the public agency (school district, for example) who would use the information.
- **The RIGHT** to request, when information is no longer needed for storage or use by the public agency, that it be destroyed except for very basic information that may be required later, for example, for social security benefits, etc.
- **The RIGHT** to be notified in advance of meetings pertaining to your child and to except understandable language presentations in your native tongue at such meetings and all communications to you in your native tongue.
- **The RIGHT** to have your child tested in his/her native language.
- **The RIGHT** to an interpreter at meetings when language may be a barrier to understanding.
- **The RIGHT** to have an interdisciplinary team evaluate your child.
- **The RIGHT** to have an annual review of your child's educational program and to have educational placement for your child made by a team of people.
- **The RIGHT** to bring someone of your choice to all meetings to assist you and to have your child educated when and where possible in a program as close as possible to your home.
- **The RIGHT** to a series of "related" services which may include such things as transportation, counseling, medical services, etc. which are written into the Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are free to the child and family.

- **The RIGHT** to a program, tailored to your child’s needs, which includes services such as physical education, recreation, career and vocational education, etc.
- **The RIGHT** to have your child, where feasible, placed in the “least restrictive environment,” that is, placed with non-handicapped children.
- **The RIGHT** to have your child evaluated on a series of tests that not only confirm that there is a handicapping condition, but helps explain why and what can be done about it.
- **The RIGHT** to refer your own child for education under the provision of Public Law 94-142 and to challenge any decision made regarding the identification, placement and education of your child.
- **The RIGHT** to have tests used with your child that are not racially or culturally discriminating.
- **The RIGHT** to have within 30 calendar days after your child has been diagnosed as handicapped by the evaluation team, an Individual Education Program (IEP) written on your child.
- **The RIGHT** to have your child tested in all areas related to the suspected disability, including, where appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status and motor abilities and to have a re-evaluation every three years.
- **The RIGHT** to participate in all meetings regarding the development, revision and review of the IEP on your child and to have an IEP including various alternative placements.
- **The RIGHT** to **AGREE** or **DISAGREE** with ideas concerning educational plans for your child and not to be bound by what the public agency can offer in services that are needed, but the **RIGHT** to focus on what your child **NEEDS**.
- **The RIGHT** to a fully paid private school placement if referred to such a setting because it is deemed in your child’s best interests.



© Copyright 2000, The International Dyslexia Association (IDA). IDA encourages the reproduction and distribution of this fact sheet. If portions of the text are cited, appropriate reference must be made. Fact sheets may not be reprinted for the purpose of resale.