Special Education Services
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6/2/2015

IDEA-Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004

- All children with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE)
- All school districts must provide special education and related services (e.g., OT, PT, Speech, Counseling, paraprofessional) at no extra cost to the child or their family
- Schools only have to provide what is appropriate, not what is best

How To Get The Process Started

- Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE)
  - Services from 3-5 years (preschool)
- Committee on Special Education
  - Services from Kindergarten on
- Write a letter to the chairperson of CSE requesting an evaluation for possible special education needs

How To Get The Process Started

- Federal and State law requires that districts complete the evaluation within 60 calendar days
- Communications must be in writing
- The school cannot refuse to evaluate a child upon the parent’s request

How To Get The Process Started

- If your child is receiving services through the CPSE, you will have a transition meeting or a declassification meeting
- You do not need to request the meeting
- In a transition meeting, CSE classification, classroom management, and services for Kindergarten will be determined
- If your child no longer requires special education services, he/she will be declassified.

Evaluation Process

- Parents must consent to an initial evaluation done by the Board of Education
- The evaluation will consist of a parent interview, observation, and assessments of your child
- Copies of all Board of Education evaluations must be provided to parents at no cost
Assessments
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Cognitive (IQ)
- Language
- Academic/Achievement

The CSE Meeting and IEP Process
- The main purpose of the meeting is to determine eligibility for services
- Results of the assessments are presented
- Classification is determined
- Program recommendations are reviewed
- Goals and objectives for the academic year are laid out for the classroom and each service provided
- Extra accommodations (e.g., testing or communication aid) extended school year, and transportation are also discussed

Classifications
- CPSE- Preschooler with Disability
- CSE- 13 classifications
- Section 504
  - Part of the Americans with Disabilities Act
  - No IEP necessary, but classroom modifications are made
  - Process is easier (physician, parent, and school complete form downloaded from website)
- 13 Classifications for the CSE
  - Autism
  - Specific Learning Disability
  - Intellectual Impairment
  - Speech or Language Impairment
  - Emotional Disturbance
  - Multiple Disabilities
  - Other Health Impaired
  - Deaf-Blindness
  - Deafness
  - Visual Impairment
  - Hearing Impairment
  - Orthopedic Impairment
  - Traumatic Brain Injury

Placement
- Typically decided at the CSE meeting
- You have the right to view any school/placement proposed for the child before accepting placement
- The goal is to find the least restrictive environment for the child

School Placements
- Public School Options
  - General education with related services
  - Special Education/Teacher Support Services (SETSS), paraprofessional, FBA, other related services
  - Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT)
    - 1 special education teacher, 1 general education teacher
    - 12:1
    - 12:1:1, 8:1:1, 6:1:1
- Non-Public School Options
  - Approved schools (www.p12.nysed.gov)
Disputing Services/Placement

- Mediation
- Impartial hearing
- www.advocatesforchildren.org

Resources


Thank you!

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