Safe kids Healthy kids Happy kids

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IEPs and 504 Plans

Help for Your Child With a Disability

All children are entitled to free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Laws require public schools to find out if a student has a disability. Schools must provide services to help students with disabilities be successful in school.

Some students with special needs may receive services under IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Students who qualify for services under IDEA will have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This is a written plan that

- identifies required services for the student, and
- states goals and objectives that the student should reach during the school year.

Some students may not qualify for services under IDEA. Parents can then ask for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. How can this help? Students have:

- a plan that addresses their needs,
- a plan to monitor their progress,
- services for classroom help, and
- related services that will help a student be successful in school.

Physical and behavioral disabilities are easy to see. Hearing, speech, sight and learning problems are harder to notice. Teachers have a duty to watch their students. They should look for problems with learning and school activities. Parents help when they share mental, physical and behavior concerns. Doctors, therapists and others can work to correct the problem.

Not everyone who asks for services under IDEA or Section 504 will receive them. Still, all parents have the **right** to request disability testing. Every school has a Section 504 contact person. Call the district office for the name of that person in your school district. Schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

All children are capable of learning. They are intelligent in many ways. Everyone has strengths.

Helping children be successful in school requires more than one answer. Focus on your child's strengths. Seek help from the school to overcome weak points. Together, parents, schools and children can find deserved success.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week.

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