PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITES IN BRIEF

ACCESS TO RECORDS

A local district must permit a parent to inspect and review any educational records relating to his/her student which are collected, maintained or used by the district.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Your child’s school records should be kept confidential. This means that they can be read or used only by school staff who have a good reason for seeing them. School records cannot be shown or sent to people outside the school without your written consent. Emergency release is an exception.

PRIOR NOTICE TO PARENTS

The local district is required to provide the parent of a student with a disability with prior written notice:

1. When the district proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student or the provision of a free, appropriate education to a student; or
2. When the district refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student or the provision of a free, appropriate public education to a student.

PARENT CONSENT

The local district must obtain parental consent using state-mandated forms before conducting an initial case study evaluation, any reevaluations, and prior to the initial placement of a student with a disability in special education.

CASE STUDY EVALUATION

If a case study referral is appropriate, parental consent must be obtained to proceed with the evaluation. If you disagree with the district’s decision to evaluate your child and you do not give written consent, the district may request a due process hearing. Once your child has been referred for a case study evaluation, the local school district has sixty (60) days (at least 3 months) to complete the evaluation and hold a conference to determine if your child has an educational disability.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION EVALUATION

The parent of a student with a disability has the right to obtain and independent educational evaluation of the student at a public expense if they disagree with the evaluation provided by the local district. However, the school district may initiate a due process hearing to demonstrate that it’s evaluation is appropriate.

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Your child must be educated in the least restrictive environment. He/She should be placed in the educational program which is appropriate to his/her needs and is least restrictive of his/her interaction with nondisabled students.

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION & MEDIATION

Complaints with respect to any matter relating to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student or the provision of a free, appropriate public education of a student should be referred to the local district.

IMPARTIAL DUE PROCESS HEARING

A parent or local district may initiate a due process hearing regarding the district’s proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student or the provision of a free, appropriate public education. A request for a due process hearing cannot be denied for any reason.

As a result of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Reauthorization (PL 105-17), sections in this document are subject to change pending the finalization of Federal and State rules.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS:

Please contact:

Fairfield Public School District #112

618-842-2679

Stacey Robbins, Special Education Coordinator

Heather Owen, Secretary

