



# Parent Rights Quick Reference

Key participation and documentation rights under IDEA

## Core protections

- Participate as an equal member of the IEP team.
- Receive notice of meetings early enough to have an opportunity to attend.
- Receive procedural safeguards and understandable explanations of rights.
- Provide or refuse consent where IDEA and state procedures require it.
- Review educational records and request explanations or amendments.
- Request an evaluation when a disability is suspected.
- Obtain an independent educational evaluation under IDEA conditions.
- Receive prior written notice when the school proposes or refuses certain actions.
- Use mediation, a state complaint, or due process procedures when appropriate.

## Questions to ask

- What decision is the team making today?
- What data support this proposal or refusal?
- What alternatives were considered and why were they rejected?
- When will I receive the decision in writing?
- Where can I find my state-specific timelines and safeguards?

Rights apply within specific procedures and timelines. Your state educational agency and procedural safeguards notice are the best sources for state-specific requirements.

**Important:** This educational resource provides general information and is not legal advice or legal representation. Special education procedures and timelines may vary by state. Review your state safeguards and consult a qualified professional about your circumstances.

Primary reference: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act regulations, 34 CFR Part 300, and U.S. Department of Education IDEA resources at [sites.ed.gov/idea](https://sites.ed.gov/idea).