

# Understanding Your Rights

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates parents' involvement in their child's education. Parents serve a vital role in the decision-making process, and it is important to have an understanding of your Parental Rights. This list is not all-inclusive. Please refer to the [Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities](#) in Virginia for additional information.

## You have the right to:

- Advocate for your child without fear of retaliation.
- Receive advance notice/invitation to meetings.
- Have meetings at a mutually agreed upon date, time, and location.
- Audio record eligibility, Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and manifestation determination meetings.
- Request to video record meetings. (If there are concerns, ask to review the school division's policy on video recording.)
- Discuss your concerns and have your input considered during meetings.
- Bring and have reviewed any type of documentation.
- Bring individuals, who at your discretion have knowledge or expertise concerning your child and can provide you with supports, and have them assist you during meetings.
- Receive a copy of procedural safeguards document once per year and any time upon request.
- Receive an independent educational evaluation (IEE) when you disagree with the results of a school-based evaluation, at no cost to you.

## What is Prior Written Notice?

Prior Written Notice must be provided to you whenever the school division proposes or refuses any action related to the following:

- Identification
- Evaluation
- Educational Placement
- Provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

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## Prior Written Notice must contain the following information:

- Description of the action proposed or refused by the school division
- Explanation of the school division's proposal or refusal to take action
- Description of other options considered and the reasons for their rejection
- Description of the evaluation, assessment, record, or report used as a basis for the action
- Description of other relevant factors
- Statement regarding procedural safeguards protections
- Sources for assistance