



E **A** **R** **L** **Y**

S T A G E S

STRONG BEGINNINGS • BRIGHT FUTURES



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

This sheet helps you, the parent, understand your rights in the special education process. It does not describe all your rights.

To read all of your rights in the process, you can find the full Notice of Procedural Safeguards on our website.



- The **Local Education Agency (LEA)** must provide **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** to all children. Children with disabilities may need special education services to access FAPE. Services include specialized instruction and/or related services. An **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** describes these services.
- If your child has a disability, they must be taught in the same class as children without disabilities when possible. This is called the **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**.
- An evaluation determines if your child qualifies for services. You have the right to attend meetings about your child's evaluation and eligibility.
- The LEA must fully inform you about what it plans to do during the special education process. This is called **Prior Written Notice (PWN)**.
- You must give consent before the LEA can do certain things. Your consent is your written permission. The LEA needs consent before starting an evaluation. The LEA also needs consent before providing services in school. You can take back consent at any time in the process. You must do so in writing.
- You may ask for another evaluation if you disagree with the LEA's evaluation. This is called an **Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)**. An IEE is free.
- You may file a due process complaint if you disagree with the LEA about (1) your child's evaluation, (2) whether your child needs special education services, (3) how the LEA intends to provide services, or (4) your child's access to FAPE.
- You have the right to receive copies of your child's school records. If you believe that the record is wrong, you have the right to ask the school to change it.
- There are protections for children with disabilities who face school discipline. Review the full Notice of Procedural Safeguards for details.

