

PARENT INVOLVEMENT - SPECIAL EDUCATION

NEPN/NSBA Code: IHBAE

For the purpose of insuring that parents and guardians of children with disabilities participate in and are consulted about the evaluation, identification, and placement of their children, the Fayette School Department complies with the following provisions:

1. Parents with concerns about their child may refer him/her to the Pupil Evaluation Team (PET) if they believe s/he may be in need of special education and supportive services. Referrals are to be in writing and addressed to Superintendent of Schools;
2. Upon receipt of a written referral of a child from a parent or other source, the parent (or guardian) will be notified in writing as to the nature of and reasons for the referral. A parent handbook specifying the due process rights in detail will also be provided with the written notice;
3. A PET meeting will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time and place to encourage parental attendance. Every effort will be made to accommodate work schedules, transportation factors, and family commitments. The Fayette School Department will take whatever action necessary to ensure that the parent understands the proceedings of the meeting;
4. In accordance with Maine Special Education Regulations, written parental permission will be obtained prior to any evaluations and for initial placement in a special education program. This consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time. The parent shall be provided prior written notice of the proposed evaluation which identifies and describes, whenever possible, the specific evaluations or diagnostic procedures intended to be used;
5. Parents shall be notified and given the opportunity to review and obtain copies of evaluation summaries or other reports to be discussed at the PET meeting;
6. The requirement for seven days prior written notice may be waived by written consent of the parent if the PET meeting has been scheduled at a time and place convenient to the parent;
7. The student's parent is considered to be part of the PET membership. Parents may invite other persons who have been involved with their child to attend PET meetings and participate in the meetings;
8. Parent's input in the development of the Individualized Educational Plan will be solicited. Specific goals and instructional objectives will be discussed with the parent. Copies of the IEP and minutes of the meeting will be provided to parents within the time frames and specified in the Special Education Regulations;

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9. A PET will be convened with all the requirements of written notice accorded to the parent in the event of a proposal that the IEP be terminated or significantly altered or at an annual review.

Legal Reference: 34 CFR 300.226

Adopted: February 21, 1996