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Illinois Parent's Guide to Special Education Services

The Illinois State Board of Education has developed an online guide for parents and others to learn about the educational rights of children who have disabilities and receive special education services.

Parent's Guide - Educational Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Special Education in Illinois (dated June 2009)

To access this online guide:

1. Go to www.isbe.net/spec-ed/Default.htm
2. Look under the heading "What's New"
3. Click on "Parent's Guide - Educational Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Special Education in Illinois"
4. The complete guide can be downloaded or you can access chapters by looking through the Table of Contents

Some Points of Interest

- ❖ Chapter 3: Referral and Evaluation - this chapter gives information about making a referral for a special education evaluation, timelines for evaluations, domains that may be evaluated and information about reevaluations
- ❖ Chapter 4: Eligibility Categories - this chapter describes and defines the different special education disabilities used by schools in Illinois
- ❖ Chapter 6: Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) - this chapter gives details about what an IEP contains, who is part of the IEP team and a variety of parent tips for IEP meetings
- ❖ Chapter 8: Secondary Transition - this chapter defines Transition, describes transition services and gives tips for planning for your child beyond graduation
- ❖ Chapter 9: Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs) - this chapter focuses on what is done for children whose behavior needs cannot be met by traditional behavior interventions; it describes Functional Assessments of Behavior and Behavior Intervention Plans in detail
- ❖ Chapter 11: Conflict Resolution - this chapter contains information regarding all stages of dispute and includes guidance on requesting mediation and due process hearings
- ❖ Appendix A: Sample Letters for Parents - this section contains sample letters to be personalized such as a request for an evaluation or IEP meeting, a positive feedback letter and a request for a due process hearing

As always, if you have questions about this information, would like help accessing this information or would like written copies of your Parents Rights manual, please contact Schramm School.

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Mason Counties Special Education Association Administrative Office, please call 309/347-5164.