

HOPE4FAMILIES

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A Special
Education
Law Firm

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

- ◆ We are a non-profit special education law firm, working in underserved communities throughout SoCal.
- ◆ Our mission is to represent families in need without charging our clients.
- ◆ We accept all cases with merit, and do not use an income formula to determine who qualifies for our services.
- ◆ We have an in-house team of 17 dedicated attorneys and legal professionals, with access to a wide network of special education service providers.



WHO WE REPRESENT

- ◆ Families of all types, regardless of economic status or ability to pay for services
- ◆ Clients experiencing homelessness and housing instability
- ◆ Ages 3 to 22
- ◆ Students with special needs regardless of the parent's capacity to assist in pursuing an educational benefit
- ◆ Children located in school districts throughout SoCal: Los Angeles, Inglewood, Lynwood, Compton, Torrance, Pasadena, San Bernadino – to name a few



WHAT IS SPECIAL EDUCATION?

- ◆ Provides a mechanism for all students, regardless of learning differences, to access a quality education
- ◆ Consists of specifically designed instruction
- ◆ Meets the unique educational needs of children with disabilities
- ◆ Places students in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- ◆ Documented in an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- ◆ Follows the mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and California Education Code



SPECIAL EDUCATION: TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

1. The school can remove a service or services from a child's IEP in the middle of the school year and then notify parent by mail of the change.
2. The parent must request an assessment for an IEP from the school. If the parent does not make a request, then the school has no obligation to assess the student.
3. The parent does not have to wait for an annual IEP meeting to express concerns regarding their child's IEP or education. They can request that an IEP meeting be held immediately to discuss those concerns.
4. Once the school and parent agree that the child must be evaluated for an IEP, the school may assess the child at their convenience and at any point during the school year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

5. If the IEP team decides that Monica must have a change in placement or a change in services, then Monica's father must go along with the rest of the team's decision because they are the ones who know Monica's strengths and weaknesses in the classroom.
6. When the school district is conducting an evaluation of the child, they must observe the child in the classroom, interview her teacher and review educational records. The evaluator does not need to interview the parent, because the parent is not in the classroom with their child.
7. If the parent disagrees with a school district's educational evaluation, the parent can request and seek a 3rd party, independent educational evaluation at public expense (school district pays).

SPECIAL EDUCATION: TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

8. Once Brandon is found eligible for special education services following the first round of assessments, the District must continue to assess Brandon once every 5 years to gather relevant, updated information.
9. James is receiving C's and passing each of his classes and moving on from grade to grade and is on track to graduate. James can still be found eligible for special education services.
9. If Michael (who has an IEP) misbehaves at school, he can be suspended for any amount of time or expelled, just as any other student without an IEP would be subject to the same punishment.

Q & A

CONTACT US



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