



CHILDREN
& FAMILIES



PROPERTY
& BUSINESS



LIFE & ESTATE
PLANNING

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1. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) [otherwise referred to as IDEA 2004], as well as Chapter 115 of the Wisconsin Statutes, guarantee the right to:
 - a. A free and appropriate public education (FAPE)
 - i. To be FAPE, the education must be “reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child’s circumstances.”
 - b. Placement in the least restrictive environment (LRE)
 - i. LRE requires, as a part of FAPE, that a child with a disability is educated within the same classroom as his/her mainstreamed, non-disabled peers to the fullest extent possible.
 - c. Fair assessment procedures
 - d. Parental involvement in educational decisions
2. COVID-19 does not void or suspend these rights.
3. The IEP is the mechanism through which the school district offers FAPE.
4. Parents are full members of the IEP team. As members, parents can request a meeting at any time.
 - a. Make the request in writing.
 - b. Use the MAGIC WORDS.
 - c. Know WHY you want the meeting
5. To prepare for the IEP meeting, determine if your child maintained, gained, or lost skills assessed by the IEP during the pandemic by:
 - a. Testing your child’s ability to achieve what he or she could do pre-pandemic.
 - b. Recording your observations from Spring 2020.
 - c. Review any online platforms (Google Docs, Seesaw, etc.) used to record Spring 2020 work and compare with pre-pandemic work
 - d. Contact last year’s classroom teacher and/or your child’s special education teacher(s) to assess their opinions
 - e. Provide school with the results of an IEE you obtained
 - f. Review district curriculum guides to assess your child’s skill level. Example:
<https://mcpasd.k12.wi.us/sites/mcpasd.k12.wi.us/files/content/parents/parent-resources/curriculum-guides/Gr4CurricBrochure2016.pdf>

At The Law Center, our Special Education Services include: Requesting and obtaining special education services under IDEA; Participating in IEP meetings; Representing parents and students at mediation or due process hearings; Advocating for students receiving services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act & the Americans with Disabilities Act. We also handle student discipline issues, including representing parents at expulsion hearings. We offer flat-fee Initial Consultations and would love to hear from you. Thank you for participating in today’s Webinar.

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