

Fort Hood School Liaison Office Special Education Frequently Asked Questions

Parents should be informed of their rights and roles in the Special Education Process. Reference to the Parents Guide to the Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) Process and Notice of Procedural Safeguards will improve transparency and communication between parents and educators as these documents contain federal and state statutes for special education. Communication starts at the school; talk with your child's teacher and Special Education Team and use additional resources as a source of knowledge and empowerment because you are your child's strongest advocate.

1. How do I verify fact from fiction?

Always use credible resources, such as the Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) and resource personnel from the installation, such as the School Liaison Office (SLO), Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) or resource personnel from your child's school.

2. What happens if I disagree with my student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) during the ARD?

You will be offered a single opportunity to have the committee recess for a period of time, not to exceed 10 school days. Upon reconvening, if you still disagree, unless the disagreement involves the initial provision of services, the school must implement the IEP the school has decided is appropriate for your child (Parent's Guide, pp. 10-11). Your child's school, the SLO, EFMP representative, and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) can provide information on the Dispute Resolution Process.

3. When is the best time to ask a question?

At the ARD meeting or during a parent conference.

4. Can services be taken away from my student?

No, not without the ARD committee consensus (Parent's Guide, p. 12).

5. Can my student's eligibility change, including Does Not Qualify (DNQ)?

Yes, at initial evaluation/re-evaluation, it can be determined that your child no longer meets the eligibility requirements. Once your child begins special education and related services, periodic re-evaluations are required (Parent's Guide, p. 12).

6. Can I request a meeting/ARD for my student?

Yes, the school must either grant your request to have a meeting or, within five school days, provide you with written notice explaining why the school refuses to convene a meeting (Parent's Guide, p. 11).

7. Can my special education student be put in In School Suspension (ISS), Out of School Suspension (OSS), or alternative school?

Yes, if your student violates the school's code of conduct. The school must follow certain discipline procedures if it removes your child from the current placement (Procedural Safeguards, p. 4-5).

8. How are decisions made?

The student's needs drive services, services drive placement.

9. What happens if my student switches schools and the new school does not have the same program?

Comparable services will be offered as required by law, Sec. 300.323(f), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

References

Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Process, April 2016

https://framework.esc18.net/Documents/ARD_Guide_ENG.pdf

Notice of Procedural Safeguards, April 2016

http://framework.esc18.net/Documents/Pro_Safeguards_ENG.pdf

