

Empowering Families Through Knowledge



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✓ **Review *Whose IDEA is This? A Parent's Guide to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.***

Reviewing this manual before the start of each school year to refresh your knowledge of your child's rights can save you some frustration into the new school year. (If you do not have a copy of *Whose IDEA is This?* You can view it or download it at the Ohio Department of Education website: <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>

✓ **Talk with your child about what to expect from the new school year, how you will assist them, what they will learn.**

Some children will benefit from having a tour of their new school or classroom before school starts. Some will benefit from having a visual schedule prepared in advance of the start of school so they will know what to expect from the new school year. Talk to your child's teacher and principal before school starts if you think your child will need these kinds of transitional supports.



Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.®

Lucas County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities

11-1765 R8/11



For questions and
more information call:

David Brewer
419-251-2455

If you have questions or concerns, the Empowering Families Through Knowledge program is available. This project provides consultations, parent coaching, mental health assessments, advocacy services and a parent education/support meeting series. With information and support you can ensure that your child reaches his or her potential.

For more information about the Empowering Families Through Knowledge program, contact David Brewer at 419-251-2455.



As your child with a disability prepares for the next school year, you and your child may be experiencing excitement about a new year of opportunities, fear about the unknown, concern about whether the appropriate placement and necessary services will be provided, or confusion about your child's rights.

To help your child start the next school year off on the right foot, consider the following questions:

- **Do you need to request that your child's IEP team convene before or at the start of this school year?**
 - Does your child have a current IEP? Is the IEP more than one year old?
 - Is the IEP sufficient? Does your child need additional services or accommodations in this new school year in order to benefit from his or her education?
 - Has your child's placement changed since the last IEP was written?

REMEMBER: IEPs must be revised once every year, but parents have the right to request a new IEP meeting at ANY time.

- **Does your child need a new Evaluation or ETR (also known as Multi-factored evaluation)?**
 - Is your child's last ETR more than three years old?
 - Is the current ETR adequate? Was it thorough enough? Did it address all of your child's areas of concern? Does it offer insight into necessary IEP services?

REMEMBER: Parents have the right to request an Independent Educational Evaluation at public expense if the school district ETR is inadequate.

- **Has your child had any new testing completed over the summer which offers more insight into educational challenges or needs?**
 - Has your child received any new diagnosis from community providers?
 - Has your child received services from any providers over the summer? Were any new techniques utilized which were particularly effective or ineffective?
- REMEMBER:** Sharing assessments, tests, and other information from community providers may be helpful for your child's teacher and IEP team in modifying services and techniques to better support your child's individualized educational needs.

- **Do you know where your child will be attending school?**

- **Is transportation arranged for your child? Are necessary transportation accommodations in place?**

To ease the transition back to school, preparation is key. Consider the following checklist as you get ready to help your child to be successful:

- ✓ **Make sure that you have a copy of your child's current IEP.** Review it and talk with your child's new teacher and related service providers about it as soon as possible in this new school year, providing extra copies to them if necessary.
- ✓ **Clarify medications necessary for a successful school year.** If medications must be administered at school, make sure to obtain appropriate forms and have your child's doctor complete before school starts.
- ✓ **Will your child need any nursing services at school?** Blood pressure checks, blood glucose checks, etc.? Make sure to clarify necessary school-based services with medical providers and obtain appropriate paperwork.
- ✓ **Review your child's ETR** (Evaluation Team Report) and make sure to highlight important points for your child's new teacher.