



## DISABILITY RIGHTS LOUISIANA

Protect. Advocate. Empower.

## RIGHTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA) is a statewide non-profit agency providing **FREE** legal services, advocacy, and other supports to people with disabilities of all ages.

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### **What are public schools required to do for children with disabilities???**

- They **MUST** identify, locate, and evaluate students who need special education and related services.
- If parents believe their child needs services, they should make a request for a special education evaluation **IN WRITING**.
- Once students qualify for special education services, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) must be developed for the student, and the school **MUST** work together with the parents and the student to develop an appropriate educational program.
- They **MUST** provide all special education and related services as determined by the IEP committee, which may include:
  - \*adapted physical education
  - \*physical therapy
  - \*assistive technology
  - \*school psychological services
  - \*occupational therapy
  - \*school social work services
  - \*orientation and mobility services
  - \*school health services
  - \*special transportation
  - \*speech/language pathology services
- These services **MUST** be provided in the least restrictive environment appropriate to the child's needs.

### **What about Discipline???**

- Special education students, and those in the process of being evaluated for special education, are entitled to extra protections.
- A special education student **CANNOT** be without educational services for more than ten days per school year due to disciplinary actions.
- If a change of placement or expulsion is recommended due to behavior, the school must first conduct a Manifestation Determination Review Meeting (MDR) to determine if the behavior was related to the child's disability.
- If the behavior was related, the child's placement cannot be changed, unless the IEP team agrees.
- If the behavior was not related, the expulsion / change of placement can occur, **BUT** the student is still entitled to receive services, a re-evaluation should be performed, and the IEP team must meet and determine where and in what manner services will be provided.

**If you believe your child's special education rights have been violated, call DISABILITY RIGHTS LOUISIANA at 1-800-960-7705.**

**For more information, visit our website: [DisabilityRightsLA.org](http://DisabilityRightsLA.org)**