

Surrogate Parent Program

Any student requiring special education and whose natural parents are unavailable as defined by law, or who is a ward of the State, may be provided a surrogate parent appointed by the Commissioner of Education in the manner provided by law.

The function of the surrogate parent will be to act as the child’s advocate in the educational decision-making process, which includes all special education identification, evaluation, placement, hearing, mediation, and appeal procedures conducted for the student. In the case of a foster child, the surrogate parent shall represent the foster child in the educational decision-making process provided the foster child’s parent or guardian:

1. agrees or fails to object to the appointment of a surrogate parent;
2. receives identical notices as the surrogate parent; and
3. may revoke the appointment of a surrogate parent at any time.

In addition, the surrogate parent will also act as the child’s advocate in the evaluation and planning procedures available to children under Section 504 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act.

Surrogate parents will be informed, by the Bethany Public School District as are regular parents, annually of Bethany Board of Education (Board) policies regarding student conduct and discipline and if the Board suspends or expels a child for conduct that violates Board policy and seriously disrupts the educational process, for carrying a weapon or for selling or distributing drugs.

The law makes provisions whereby a parent or legal guardian or the student for whom a surrogate parent has been appointed may contest the surrogate parent appointment.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-94f
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-94g
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-94h
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-94i
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-94j
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-94k
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-233e
 Section 504, U.S. Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. 791
 17a-110, §§ 243-244 of June Special Session Public Act 15-5

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