

JEFFERSON PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Student Bill of Rights

(To be given to the student and parent a year before and again when rights transfer)

As a student with a disability, you have certain rights based on both Federal and State Laws. This document will help you understand your rights related to getting an education and other key issues. You should always speak to your teacher and/or parent first if you need further information or are having a problem with asserting any of the rights listed here. If you need additional help, check with your teacher for agencies to contact.

Students who are eligible for special education have the right to:

- A free appropriate public education (FAPE) through age 21 or high school graduation with a regular high school diploma, whichever comes first.
- Have a statement of transition service needs included in their IEPs at least by age 14 (or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP team).
- Have a statement of needed transition services in their IEPs at least by age 16 (or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP team). Transition services are strategies to prepare students for successful adult life.
- Attend and participate in their IEP meetings at any age if a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the student's transition service needs, the needed transition services or both.
- Be educated with children who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate.
- Be informed, at least one year before the student reaches the age of majority, that all parental rights under state law will transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of majority.

If you need more information or have a problem asserting any of these rights, speak to your teacher and/or parent. If you need additional help, you (or your parent if you are not yet at the age of majority) have the right to ask for mediation and if needed, an impartial due process hearing. Look at a copy of the "Louisiana's Educational Rights of Children with Exceptionalities in Public Schools" booklet provided by your school. Details about these procedures and the forms you will need are in this booklet. A request for mediation or for a due process hearing should be mailed to the Director of Special Education, Jefferson Parish Public School System, 501 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058. The request must state the problem and the solution you want.

*Adapted from and used with permission from the
New Jersey Department of Education,
Office of Special Education Programs*

People with disabilities have the right to:

- Be provided with appropriate accommodations to meet their needs in order to benefit from their education. (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)

If you need more information or have a problem asserting this right, contact the Jefferson Parish Public School system, Director of Special Education, 501 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058 (504-349-7912) or Louisiana State Department of Education, Division of Special Population (225-342-3633) or the Civil Rights Division of the United States Justice Department (1-800-514-0301).

- Not be discriminated against because of their disabilities in the areas of:
 - 1) employment.
 - 2) public service and transportation.
 - 3) public accommodations.
 - 4) telecommunications. (The Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA)

For further information about the ADA, call the Civil Rights Division of the United State Justice Department (1-800-514-0301) (TTY 1-800-514-0383).

- Get help in preparing for, obtaining and keeping a job after graduation from high school (regardless of the severity of their disabilities). After being determined eligible for services, the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) provides this assistance.

Students can have their eligibility for LRS services determined up to two years prior to leaving high school. Students should speak to their teachers with IEP authority about this process, or contact the LRS office that is located near their home. The phone number for local LRS offices can be obtained from your teacher with IEP authority or the blue pages of the phone book listed under Louisiana Social Services Department, Rehabilitation Services.

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**Student
Rights**
upon reaching
the age of majority

**Student
Responsibilities**
upon reaching
the age of majority

I have the right to know what my disability is and how it affects my ability to learn, live independently and be part of a lifelong learning system.

I have the right to be provided information regarding assessment, services and Individualized Education Program (IEP) in a language and format that I understand.

I have the right to participate in my IEP meetings.

I have the right to have individuals who understand my disability serve on my IEP team.

I have the right to accept or refuse services.

I have the right to disagree with my IEP and to receive help in writing a complaint, requesting mediation or a due process hearing.

It is my responsibility to ask questions, request help, seek self advocacy training and peer support so that I can learn about my disability and advocate for my needs.

It is my responsibility to ask questions until I understand.

It is my responsibility to attend all meetings and actively participate in planning for my adult life.

It is my responsibility to invite people (i.e., friend, parent, grandparent, coach, teacher) I trust and who know me well.

It is my responsibility to understand that refusing services may affect my school/work program, and that I may not get these services back.

It is my responsibility to follow through and be cooperative with any process that I request.

*Adapted from and used with permission from the
Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.*