

# Be a Surrogate Parent FOR A STUDENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION



## **What is a Surrogate Parent?**

A surrogate parent is an individual who represents an IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) eligible child or thought-to-be eligible child in matters relating to the identification, assessment, educational placement, and the provision of FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education).

A surrogate parent is an individual who meets specific qualifications and volunteers to perform the duties of a parent or guardian in the special education process.

## **What is the Surrogate Parent's Role?**

The surrogate parent's role is the same as the role of a parent. The surrogate parent is to represent the rights of the student in the special education process. The surrogate parent must ensure that the rights of IDEA-eligible or thought-to-be eligible children are protected.

The surrogate parent plays an important role in the special education process. The surrogate parent is, in essence, the parent for a special education student for whom a parent is not available or cannot be located. The surrogate parent has the same rights as the biological parent or guardian in all aspects of the special education process.

**Contact your Director of Student Services for information about training opportunities and information to become a Surrogate Parent in your local area.**

