



Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc.

The Parent Training and Information Center for the District of Columbia

Parent's Bill of Rights

Parents Are Equal Partners

Parents are equal partners with professionals in the development of their child's full potential. They are the authority on their own child, and they have the following rights:

1. **The right to claim their just share, in partnership with their professional helpers in planning their child's future.**
2. **The right to be informed of their rights.**
3. **The right to question decisions made concerning their child, especially when they do not agree with these decisions.**
4. **The right to all the services for their child with special needs that the law grants them.**
5. **The right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for their child at the public school's expense.**
6. **The right to inspect and challenge the contents of their child's school records.**
7. **The right to challenge any professional's decision with which they do not agree.**
8. **The right to a due process hearing when a mediation and/or arbitration decision does not work with regard to placement or provision of services.**
9. **The right to ask that their child receive all the benefits and privileges granted to any other student.**
10. **The rights to make mistakes without feeling guilty.**

Adapted from: How to Get Services by Being Assertive, modified by G. Johnson

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**Children with
Special Needs,
need Parents
with Special
Skills!**