



# School District of Pickens County

*Building success beyond the classroom*

## **SURROGATE PARENT RECRUITMENT STATEMENT**

The School District of Pickens County is recruiting individuals to serve as surrogate parents for disabled pupils enrolled in the agency who are Wards of the State or otherwise without adults to represent them in educational planning. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that parents or guardians be involved in all aspects of identification, evaluation and placement of pupils and the provision of a free appropriate public education.

If a pupil's parent or guardian is not available to provide this representation, the law specifies that the agency must appoint a surrogate parent to act on behalf of the child.

The surrogate parent must meet all of the eligibility requirements of the standards and IDEA regulations including:

1. An adult with no interest that conflicts with the interest of the child he or she represents.
2. Have knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the child.
3. Capable of becoming thoroughly acquainted with the child's educational needs.
4. Capable of understanding the cultural and linguistic background of the children they represent.
5. Not an employee of the state education agency, local education agency, or any other agency (public or private) involved in the education or care of the child.

Surrogate parents have the same rights as natural parents and guardians in all aspects of identification, evaluation, and education and educational placement of the child and in provision of a free and appropriate public education. This includes the right to:

1. Have access to all written records regarding the child's education.
2. Consent or refuse to consent to the child's individual education.
3. Receive written and verbal interpretations of the individual evaluation.
4. Participate in the development of the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
5. Consent or refuse to consent to the child's special education placement.
6. Request an independent or new evaluation if desired.
7. Initiate a due process hearing or the appeals process.
8. Receive progress reports of the child's program.

The Surrogate parent's responsibility is to act in the best interest of the child and includes:

1. Represent the child in the educational decision making process.
2. Become acquainted with the child's educational background and educational needs.
3. Respond with approval or disapproval to request for educational assessment.
4. Initiate requests for assessment and reassessments.
5. Review the pupil's educational records.
6. Comply with state and federal laws in the areas of confidentiality of information.
7. Participate in IEP meetings, placement meetings, and other parent/school conferences.
8. Review and monitor child's educational program.
9. Initiate complaint or due process procedure.
10. Represent the child in any due process hearing.
11. Act as the child's parent/advocate by requesting services or expressing concerns about services or lack of services.

*If you are willing to serve as a surrogate parent, please contact Special Services at (864) 397-1005 to receive an application packet.*