



# Surrogate Parents in Special Education



The West End SELPA and its member districts are seeking volunteers to become Educational Surrogates for children with special needs. An educational surrogate can make a difference in a child's education.

## What is an Educational Surrogate?

A “surrogate parent” is appointed by a local educational agency (LEA) or special education local plan area (SELPA) or the individualized education program (IEP) team to ensure the rights of the pupil to a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

## What is the Role of An Education Surrogate?

The Educational Surrogate/Responsible Adult may represent a child in matters relating to special education and related services, including:

- Identification
- Assessment
- Instructional planning and development
- Educational placement
- Reviewing and revising the individualized education program (IEP)

And in all other matters relating to the provision of free appropriate public education (FAPE) of a child.

## Who Can Be an Educational Surrogate?

- Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations 300.519(1) provides that individuals appointed as educational surrogates may not be an employee of the local LEA, the State educational agency (SEA), or another agency that is responsible for providing care or services to the student
- Individuals may not have a conflict of interest in representing the interests of the student
- Individuals must have the knowledge and skills to ensure adequate representation of the child.

## Additional Information :

**[CDE Surrogate Parent Overview](#)**

**[CDE: Surrogate Parent Training Module](#)**