

Educational Surrogate -

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires an educational surrogate be assigned when a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) does not have a parent or other adult (not employed by a public agency serving the child) to be an educational decision-maker and fill the role of parent for special education processes. Students with IEPs need an educational surrogate when

- (1) the student has no identified parent;
- (2) the student has parents who, after reasonable efforts, cannot be located by a public agency;
- (3) the student is a ward of the state and is living in a facility or group home (and not with a person acting as a parent); or
- (4) the student is an unaccompanied homeless youth.

For the educational surrogacy process to run smoothly and to ensure we are meeting each child's educational needs, districts must continually recruit educational surrogates. If you know of a student in need of an educational surrogate please contact the Special Services Office at 660-563-5597.

If you are interested in becoming an educational surrogate, please contact the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guide for Educational Surrogate Training and [online application](#).