

SO YOUR FOSTER YOUTH HAS AN IEP

Did you know?

35.6-47.3% of youth in foster care receive special education services, but it is estimated that 60% of foster youth qualify for special education.

What Should you the Social Worker do?

- Ensure that you have all records relevant to the youth's education. This includes: the youth's IEP (Individualized Educational Program), copies of psychological/diagnostic testing, records that show the classification of disability, relevant medical records, and contact information of the school psychologist from their previous school if applicable.
- Review the IEP, they frequently include recommendations of things to do at home. Ensure that foster parents understand their responsibility in implementing parts of the IEP.
- If the youth has recently moved schools, check in with the school psychologist to ensure that they are receiving the assistance they need.
- If the youth has a surrogate parent make sure they are effective.

Traits of an Effective Surrogate Parent

- Knowledgeable about special education
- Comfortable with the IEP process
- Knows the youth has a right to participate actively in the school environment
- Makes no judgement about the youth's history but is there to advocate from a strengths-based perspective
- Culturally responsive and sensitive, especially to race, poverty, and socio-economic issues
- Able to negotiate

Want more information on what a surrogate parent is, check out this link! <https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/special-education-surrogate-parents/special-education-surrogate-parents-1>

**NC STATE
CENTER FOR
FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

www.cfface.org

www.facebook.com/cfface

Resources:
<http://foster-ed.org/fostering-success-in-education-national-factsheet-on-the-educational-outcomes-of-children-in-foster-care/>

NC State University promotes equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon one's age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status.