

## Education Surrogate

### Parents Program

All students need parental support to succeed.

The Educational Surrogate Parents Program responds to the need for support and representation of students with disabilities whose parents are not available.

This program relies on the commitment of volunteers who support a student's education by advocating for him/her to ensure that the student receives a free and appropriate public education.



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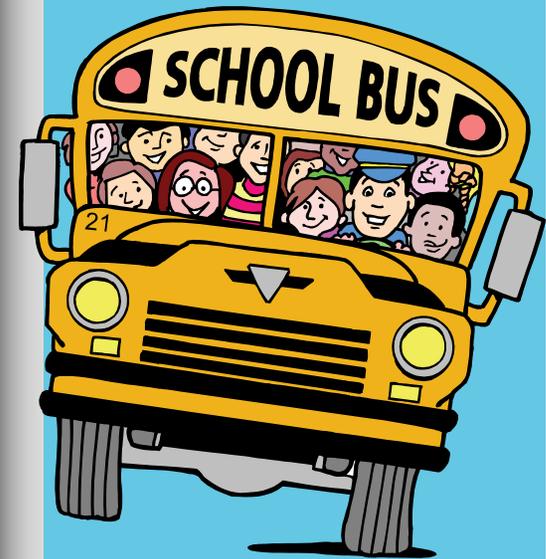
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Tulsa Public Schools

## Educational Surrogate Parents Program



**Volunteers  
Needed**



## Do I Need to Be an Expert?

You do not need to be an expert on education. The keys to being an effective surrogate parent are:

- √ Caring and wanting to do a good job
- √ Focusing on the child's needs, abilities, and goals
- √ Being willing to be part of the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) team
- √ Being willing to gather information from written records and from teachers and other people who work with the child
- √ Listening and asking questions
- √ Making positive suggestions
- √ Being flexible and trying to find several ways to reach a goal or solve a problem with school staff.

## What Does a Surrogate Parent Actually Do?

You may wonder what you would actually do as a surrogate parent. A surrogate parent does all the things that a parent would do as part of the Special Education process, such as:

- ◆ Becoming familiar with the child's abilities, disabilities, needs, services, and goals (This may include observing and talking with the child in school, gathering information from written records, and talking with teachers)
- ◆ Going to meetings and helping the team plan and make decisions about the child's education
- ◆ Signing papers giving consent for special education assessments, placement, and services.
- ◆ Advocating for appropriate services.
- ◆ Helping our community meet the needs of exceptional students.

Remember, a surrogate parent does not take care of the child or support the child financially.



## How can I become a Surrogate Parent?

Surrogate parents must:

- ◆ Be at least 18 years old
- ◆ Not be an employee of the Oklahoma State Dept. of Education, OSDE, local school district or any agency involved in the education or care of the child
- ◆ Have no personal or professional interest that conflicts with the interest of the child.
- ◆ Pass a background check.
- ◆ **Be willing to participate in training**

If you meet these requirements and want to become part of the IEP team, please fill out a surrogate parent application and submit to the individual and address listed on this brochure.

