



Sanilac Intermediate School District
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Why the IEP Signature Page has Changed?

The Michigan Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services has reviewed and made a more accurate interpretation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. They have directed local school districts to have the parent signature and district signature be removed from the Individual Education Plan (IEP) forms.

The common perception was that this signature on the IEP form allowed parents to decide whether or not to accept/approve the IEP that was developed, however, that was not the intent. Parents are required to provide consent (signature) for the **initial** provision of services or at the first IEP. After the first IEP, it is assumed that a child with a disability has a right to special education, and this cannot be denied by either refusing to sign an IEP or by signing in opposition to the IEP.

Parent rights and Procedural Safeguards have not changed. Parents still have options for resolving special education disputes as identified in the Procedural Safeguards. These options include, but are not limited to: requesting a meeting with the building principal or the district's special education director; requesting a new IEP team meeting in an effort to bring different participants to the IEP team meeting; requesting an IEP facilitator (a neutral individual to ensure all viewpoints and ideas are heard) to assist the district and you to develop a new IEP; requesting mediation; filing a special education complaint; or filing a due process hearing complaint.

Key Bullet Points

- The MDE has advised a form change to the IEP paperwork
- The parent signature line has been removed from the IEP form
- Under IDEA regulation parental consent/signature is only

required for the initial provision of services

- Parent input is still valued and needed in the IEP development process
- All procedural safeguards are still in place; none of the parental rights have changed