



South Bend Community School Corporation Special Education Services

“SO YOU ARE GOING TO BE 18 NEXT YEAR”

AS A STUDENT RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES YOU ARE ENTITLED TO RIGHTS UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW

Remember when the school has conferences with your parents to talk about special education services and they received a copy of “parents’ rights”? These rights, guaranteed by state and federal laws, are also entitled “Notice of Procedural Safeguards” and describe how parents can participate in their child’s education.

One of these rights is to make you aware now, at age 17, that next year when you become 18 all of those rights transfer to you (unless the court appoints your parents or another person as your guardian).

Some of these important rights are:

- You must be invited to any conferences the school has to talk about your education and be notified in writing before the conference.
- You have the right to discuss your school courses, what you are planning to do after you leave school, and how school and other agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation can help.
- You must give your written permission before the school can do any additional testing, change your school placement, or release your educational records unless the release is permitted by law.
- You have the right to be educated with students who do not have disabilities - to the extent it is appropriate.
- If you disagree about any testing or special education services, you may ask for a state appointed mediator or a hearing officer.
- You have the right to inspect and review your educational records with an explanation and receive a copy of them.
- If you are suspended for more than 10 days and/or are recommended for expulsion the school must first have a manifestation determination conference. This conference is to see if there is a connection between your disability and your behavior that caused you to be suspended or recommended to be expelled.
- Regardless of any disciplinary action you have the right to continue to receive special education services.
- If you are incarcerated, these rights still transfer to you.

When you are 18 you also:

- Are legally responsible for your actions (your parents are not!)
- Can vote
- Can sign a contract; however your signature can be legally binding – meaning you may have to make payments even if you change your mind
- Can obtain a driver’s license
- Can make a will
- Can obtain medical treatment without parental consent
- Must register with selective service if you are a male

If you have any questions please talk to your special education teacher, assistant principal, principal or call the Special Education Office, 574-283-8130.

If you wish to have additional assistance you may contact IN*SOURCE, (a family resource center) at 574-234-7101.