



About The Arc of Fort Bend County



MISSION STATEMENT

- ▶ The Arc of Fort Bend County ensures opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to maximize their quality of life within our community.



FASD initiative

Alcohol & Pregnancy:
It's just not worth the risk.



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention Project
www.thearc.org/FASD-Prevention-Project



Information and Referral



Wings For All



Educational Advocacy



- **Special Education Presentations**
- **Educational guidance consult (phone)**
- **IEP Reviews***
- **Parent coaching & ARD prep***
- **Information & Referral**
- **Parent Support Group -1st Thurs. @ 9:30 am**

* A membership benefit of The Arc of Fort Bend



Youth Programs

Youth Group Activities



**Respite for Parents
FB Youth 11 – 18 w/ I/DD**

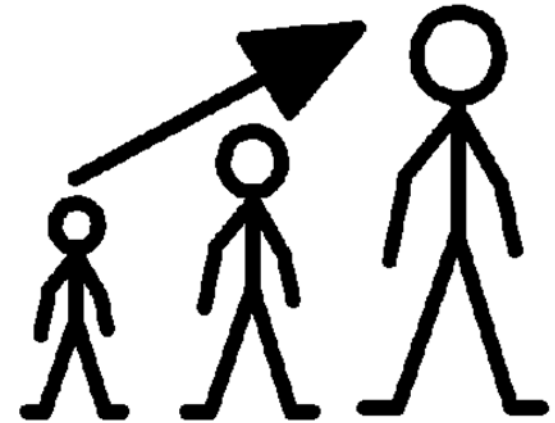


Autism advocates. Providing help. Creating hope.



Transition Programs

- TwentySomethings
- Special Olympics
- Employment counselling
- Information and referral













Adult Social Recreation

- Weekly bowling league
- 3-4 additional activities each month















Advocacy Essentials

What is Special Education?

IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,
Part B (2004)

1 of 13 Disabilities + Educational Need

Specially designed instruction, support, and services provided to students with an identified disability who require individually designed instruction to meet their unique learning needs.



Special Education & Related Services

Purpose: “Ensure all children with disabilities have a free appropriate public education, designed to *meet their unique needs* and prepare them for *further education, employment and independent living . . .*”

20 U.S.C. 1400(d)



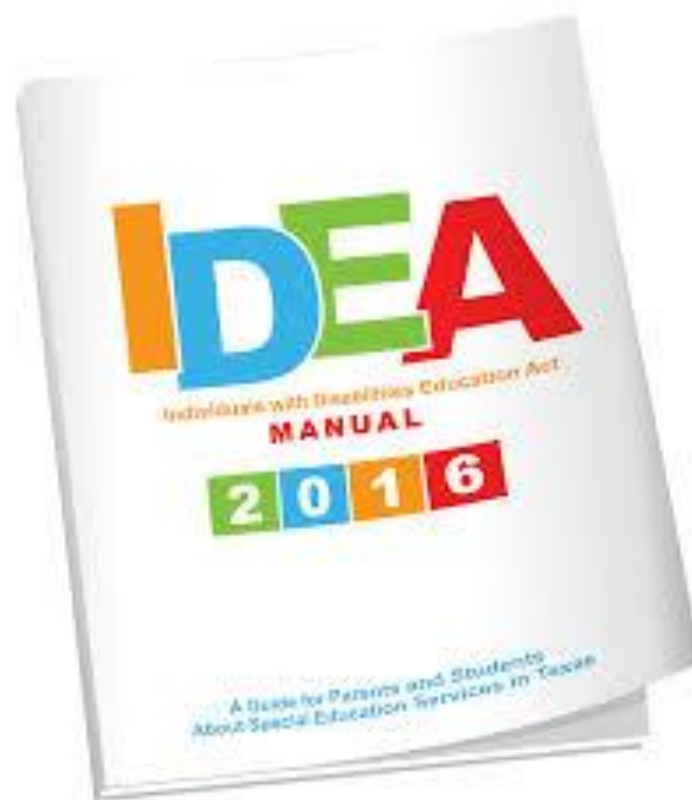
Something isn't right. Where do I begin?

Share your academic, social, or behavioral concerns with your child's teacher.



*RTI process can not delay/deny a special education evaluation request. (See OSEP Memo Jan. 21, 2011)

IDEA Manual 2016



www.thearcoftexas.org/idea-manual/

Evaluations

45 school days to complete an educational evaluation

30 calendar days to hold an Admission Review and Dismissal (ARD) meeting.



Meaningful Parent Participation

Parents are an important part of the ARD Committee, entitled to “*meaningful parent participation*”.

IEP = Individualized Education Program

ARD = Admission Review and Dismissal



ARD Meetings

Parents may request an ARD meeting at any time to discuss important educational concerns.



Progress Concerns

Educational program not challenging.
Little to no progress.



The Parent Notebook

A Record of Student's Academic Progress for
Each Grade / School Year



The Parent Notebook Includes these 5 Tabs:

1. Copy of current IEP / 504 Plan used during school year.
2. Copy of most recent Report Cards / Progress Reports.
3. Last educational evaluation (Independent Evals, Tutor / Therapy notes, etc.)
4. Correspondence between you & school.
5. Sample school work throughout the school year.

ARD Meeting Preparation & Attendance

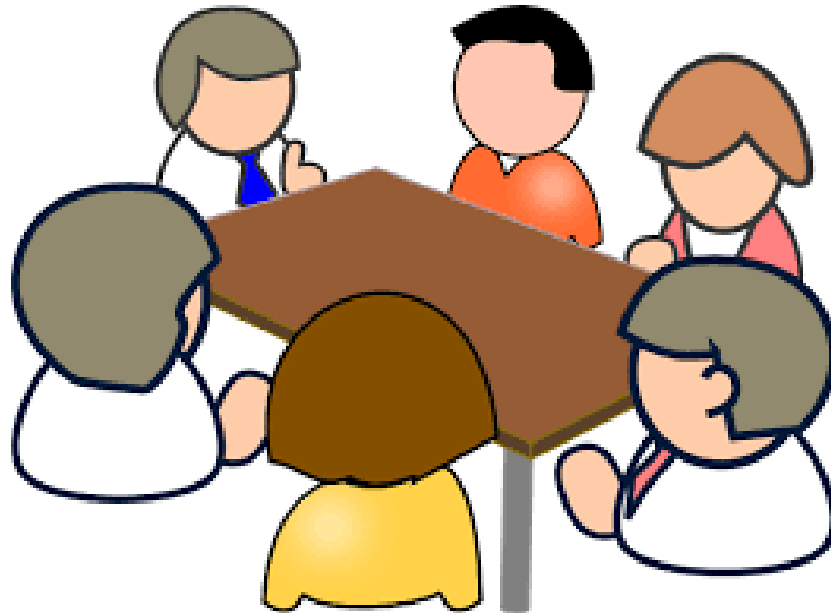
1. Review IEP
2. List of concerns
3. List of solutions/requests.



Change in Placement

Placement decisions must be made by the ARD committee and individualized based on your child's unique needs.

20 U.S.C. § 1414(e)



Behavior Problems

BIP = Behavior Intervention Plan

FBA = Functional Behavioral Analysis

A functional behavior assessment is a strategy to:

- Identify the function of problem behavior(s)
- Develop and implement a behavior plan to modify variables that maintain the problem behavior
- Teach appropriate replacement behaviors using positive interventions



Manifestation Determination Review

A school must hold a Manifestation Determination Review meeting once a student reaches a cumulative 10 disciplinary days of removal during a school year.
34 C.F.R. 300.530 (e).

10
DAYS

Least Restrictive Environment

[T]o the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, are educated with children who are not disabled . . . removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.“

20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(5)



10 Day Reconvene

- IF the school and parents disagree with an IEP change in placement or program, the parents may request to **reconvene the meeting within 10 school days.**
- The 10 days allows both school and parents to gather additional information and data, observe and visit proposed placement, consider supports, services and other alternatives.

10
DAYS

“Stay Put”

If parents wish to exercise “Stay Put” they must:

1. Sign in disagreement with the IEP
2. Refuse to waive the 5 day waiting period for changes
3. File a due process hearing request with the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Due process is an administrative legal proceeding.

Parents should consider seeking legal advice from an attorney who practices special education law.





Questions?

Karri Axtell
Director of Youth Programs
The Arc Fort Bend County
Direct: 281-484-5924
Email: kaxtell@arcoffortbend.org

- ▶ www.arcoffortbend.org - The Arc Fort Bend
- ▶ www.arcoftexas.org - The Arc Texas
- ▶ www.TexasProjectFirst.org
- ▶ www.prntexas.org - Partners Resource Network
- ▶ www.NavigateLifeTexas.org
- ▶ www.wrightslaw.com
- ▶ www.drmtx.org - Disability Rights Texas
- ▶ TEA: www.tea.state.tx.us

