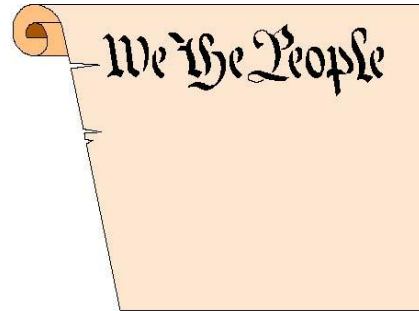


# STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS

As a student with an IEP (Individualized Education Program), you have certain **rights** based on both Federal and State Laws. This document will help you understand your rights related to getting an education and other key issues. You should always speak to your teacher, counselor, school case manager, and parent first if you need further information or are having a problem with asserting any of the rights listed here. If you need additional help, this document lists the web addresses and phone numbers of agencies to contact.



## STUDENTS WITH AN IEP HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- ◇ **A free appropriate public education through age 21 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.**
- ◇ **Have transition services included in their IEPs beginning at age 14 or younger. Transition services are activities/strategies that prepare students for a successful adult life.**
- ◇ **Attend and participate in IEP meetings whenever transition services are considered.**
- ◇ **Be informed on or before their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, that all parental rights under New Jersey special education law will transfer to the student when he or she reaches age 18.**
- ◇ **Be educated with children who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate.**

*(Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, and NJAC Title 6A Chapter 14)*

If you need more information or have a problem asserting any of these rights, first speak to your teacher, school case manager, school counselor and parent. If you need additional help, you (or your parent) have the right to ask for mediation and if needed an impartial due process hearing. You can download a copy of the booklet "Parental Rights in Special Education" from <http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/form/prise/prise.pdf> or obtain a copy from your school case manager. Details about these procedures and the forms you will need are in this booklet. A request for mediation or for a due process hearing should be mailed to the director of the Office of Special Education, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500. The request must state the problem and the solution you want. It must also show that a copy of the request was sent to the district.

If you need help with transition or special education, you can call the New Jersey Department of Education at (609) 633-6431, or (609) 292-0362, or visit [www.nj.gov/education](http://www.nj.gov/education)

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- ◇ **Be provided with appropriate accommodations to meet their needs in order to benefit from their education.**

*(Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)*

If you need more information or have a problem asserting this right, you can contact the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education at (609) 292-7602, or call the Office for Civil Rights at (212) 637-6466 and visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/qa-complaints.html>

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO (CONTINUED):

- ◇ **Not be discriminated against because of their disabilities in the areas of 1) employment, 2) public service and transportation, 3) public accommodations, and 4) telecommunications.**

(The Americans With Disabilities Act, or ADA)

For further information about the ADA, call the Northeast DBTAC at 1-800-949-4232 (voice and TDD) or visit <http://www.adata.org>

- ◇ **Get help in preparing for, obtaining and keeping a job after exiting from high school (regardless of the severity of their disabilities). After being determined eligible for services, the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) provides this assistance.**

(Rehabilitation Act, and NJAC Title 12, Chapter 45)

Students may apply to become a DVRS client up to 2 years prior to exiting the secondary school system. Before that time, once a student turns 14, DVRS counselors upon request can provide consultations to the student, his or her parents and the student's school. Such consultations could consist of: providing information about DVRS, vocational planning, and the disability related services that may benefit the student. School districts typically make the referral to DVRS although students of age or others on the student's behalf may do so as well.

Students (and others) can submit a referral to DVRS online at <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/dvrs/disabled/ReferralForm.html> or by submitting a one page written referral form to a local DVRS office. Ask your case manager for the address of your local DVRS office, and the name and phone number of the DVRS counselor assigned to your school.

If you have a problem with applying for or receiving DVRS services, ask to speak with a DVRS supervisor or office manager. If you need further assistance, contact the Client Assistance Program online at <http://www.drnj.org/caprogram.htm> or by phone at 800-922-7233 or 609-292-9742.

## ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- ◇ **Participate in their school district's comprehensive guidance and counseling system to facilitate career awareness and exploration.**
- ◇ **Be offered by their school district opportunities to more actively experience career exploration by participating in structured learning experiences (paid or unpaid work experiences, volunteer activities, participation in an apprenticeship program, community service, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities).**

(NJAC Title 6A, Chapter 8 Standards and Assessment for Student Achievement)

If you need more information or have a problem asserting these rights, contact the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education (609) 633-0665.