



# Volunteer to be a Special Education Surrogate Parent

The Office of Exceptional Children has released an on-line version of the Surrogate Parent Training Program which is available to people who meet the criteria to be trained. An individual may register for the on-line Surrogate Parent Training on the Ohio Dept. of Education's [website](#), and complete the modules and exams. Upon completion individuals and their districts receive a certificate of completion.

## What is a Surrogate Parent?

Federal and state laws and regulations give parents of children with disabilities the right to actively help shape and monitor their child(ren)'s special education services and supports.

When students don't have their own parents or a legal guardian to represent them, school districts superintendents must appoint a surrogate parent to represent them.

## Who can be a Surrogate Parent?

Any individual who has no conflict of interest, who has been appointed by a school superintendent and who has completed the Surrogate Parent Training Program.

## Who needs a Surrogate Parent?

Any student with disabilities

- Who is a ward of the state,
- Whose parents are unknown or unavailable, or
- Who has been determined by the school district superintendent to be in need of a surrogate parent.

## What does a Surrogate Parent do?

He or she represents the child's special educational interests in the same manner as a natural parent. The surrogate parent needs to understand the child's disability and unique educational needs. The surrogate parent provides permission for certain special education procedures. He or she reviews the child's assessment/evaluation data and educational placement. A surrogate parent takes part in school meetings in which the student's individualized educational plan is developed, reviewed and modified. Finally, the surrogate parent is involved in the child's ongoing educational process.

Please call Terri McIntee, Family and Community Involvement Specialist, 216-446-3810 if you have questions about procedures for registering for the Surrogate Parent Training Session.

ESC of Cuyahoga County; Essex Place; 6393 Oak Tree Blvd.; Independence, Ohio 44131