

Special Education: Disagreements with the School District

Parents and school districts do not always agree about special education eligibility, assessments, services, and placement. As a starting point, it is almost always crucial for parents to have professional support for their position when they disagree with the school district's position. Parents have the right to obtain an independent evaluation if dissatisfied with the school district's evaluation and, in some circumstances, to have the school district pay for that independent evaluation. Parents always can have their child evaluated by whomever they wish at their own expense or through their health insurance.

When such disputes cannot be resolved between the parties at the Team level, parents have several dispute resolution options through the Bureau of Special Education Appeals ("BSEA"), including a facilitated IEP meeting, mediation, an advisory opinion, and a Due Process hearing. In Massachusetts, the BSEA is the administrative body authorized to address most issues arising under the IDEA, Section 504, and the state special education laws. Parents are often best served by consulting an attorney well before proceeding to the BSEA.

If you have concerns about your child's educational services, programming, or placement, contact Attorney Hillary J. Dunn at (508)-532-3515 or hdunn@fletchertilton.com. We represent students with disabilities and their families through all stages of advocacy in the special education process including assessment, IEP development, implementation and placement. We assist our clients at school meetings, in mediation and in hearings before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals.

RESPONSIVE SOLUTIONS

Two simple words that explain our commitment to you. Being responsive is a critical element in building a strong attorney-client relationship. Whether you are a new or existing client, we'll be quick to respond to your needs with the knowledge necessary to find solutions to your legal concerns.

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