

Who is a Special Education Surrogate Parent?

- Someone who wants to make a difference in a student's life
- Someone who knows about the special education process or is willing to learn about it through free trainings and workshops

Federal education law requires that a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) be included in the special education decision-making process. However, children in state custody whose parents are unknown or unavailable may not have anyone to fill that vital role. Special Education Surrogate Parents (SESPs) volunteer to make education decisions for students whose parents are unable to do so.

Make a difference in the life of a student in your community

Become a Special Education



Is there someone out there who understands what I need to succeed in school?

I wish there was someone who cared enough to help me.

My current situation is temporary. Will someone help me prepare for the future?

Are you that someone? Become a Special Education Surrogate Parent

Recruitment, Training & Support Center for Special Education Surrogate Parents is a project of the



Federation for Children with Special Needs
The Schrafft Center
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Become a Special Education Surrogate Parent



RTSC

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A project of the



Federation for Children with Special Needs

Recruitment, Training & Support Center

What are the responsibilities of a Special Education Surrogate Parent?

- Act on behalf of the student you are appointed to with all of the rights and authority of a parent in matters of special education
- Meet with and/or observe the student at school
- Review all school records and receive progress reports
- Sign evaluation consent forms
- Attend education related meetings for the student and be involved in the planning and discussions regarding their special educational needs
- Sign an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for the student
- Monitor the student's services, progress and educational placement
- Respect the confidentiality of all records and information related to the student



What is the time commitment for being an SESP?

Stability and continuity are critical for the students we serve. We ask volunteers to make a one-year commitment. Volunteers tell us that they spend an average of 30-40 hours per year volunteering for each student.

Why volunteer?

- The first and best reason - to help a child in need in your community
- To use your knowledge to help others
- To receive training from experienced special education professionals
- To become part of a supportive community
- To bring a parent perspective to the IEP Team

How do I become a Special Education Surrogate Parent?

- Submit a completed application providing two references. Applications are available online at www.fcsn.org/rtsc/becoming-an-nesp/application. You can also request an application by emailing rtsc@fcsn.org or calling 617-236-7210.
- Complete the SESP Orientation Training through the RTSC
- Attend workshops and trainings at the Federation as needed

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT BECOMING A SESP?

Call the Recruitment, Training and Support Center at 617-236-7210 and ask for the Special Education Surrogate Program OR visit the RTSC website at www.fcsn.org/rtsc



for Special Education Surrogate Parents