

**SAN LORENZO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

Instruction

AR 6159.1 (a)

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS AND COMPLAINTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Prior Written Notice

The Superintendent or designee shall send to the parents/guardians of any student with disabilities a prior written notice within a reasonable time before: (20 USC 1415(c); 34 CFR 300.503; Education Code 56500.4, 56500.5)

1. The district initially refers the student for assessment
2. The district refuses to initiate or change the student's identification, assessment, or educational placement or the provision of FAPE to the student

This notice shall include when appropriate: (20 USC 1415(c); 34 CFR 300.503)

1. A description of the action proposed or refused by the district
2. An explanation as to why the district proposes or refuses to take the action
3. A description of any other options that the individualized education program (IEP) team considered and why those options were rejected
4. A description of the assessment procedure, test, record, or report the district used as a basis for the proposed or refused action
5. A description of any other factors relevant to the district's proposal or refusal
6. A statement that the parents/guardians of the student have protection under procedural safeguards
7. Sources for parents/guardians to obtain assistance in understanding these provisions

Procedural Safeguards Notice

A procedural safeguards notice shall be made available to parents/guardians of students with a disability once a school year and: (20 USC 1415(d)(1); 34 CFR 300.504; Education Code 56301)

1. Upon initial referral or parent/guardian request for assessment
2. Upon request by a parent/guardian

The procedural safeguards notice shall include a full explanation of all of the procedural safeguards available under 34 CFR 300.148, 300.151-300.153, 300.300, 300.502-300.503, 300.505-300.518, 300.520, 300.530-300.536, and 300.610-300.625 relating to: (20 USC 1415(d)(2); 34 CFR 300.504)

1. Independent educational evaluation
2. Prior written notice
3. Parental consent
4. Access to educational records
5. Complaints, due process complaint and mediation
6. The student's placement during the pendency of any due process complaint
7. Procedures for students who are subject to placement in an interim alternative educational setting
8. Requirements for unilateral placement by parents/guardians of students in private schools at public expense
9. Hearings on due process complaints, including requirements for disclosure of assessment results and recommendations
10. State-level appeals

A copy of this notice shall be attached to the student's assessment plan and referred to at each IEP meeting. (Education Code 56321, 56321.5)

Format of Parent/Guardian Notices

The parents/guardians of a student with a disability shall be provided written notice of their rights in a language easily understood by the general public and in their native language or other mode of communication used by them, unless to do so is clearly not feasible. The notice shall include, but not be limited to, those rights prescribed by Education Code 56341. (34 CFR 300.503; Education Code 56341, 56506;)

If the native language or other mode of communication of the parent/guardian is not a written language, the district shall take steps to ensure that: (34 CFR 300.503)

1. The notice is translated orally or by other means to the parent/guardian in his/her native language or other mode of communication.

Due Process Complaints

A parent/guardian and/or the district may initiate due process hearing procedures. (20 USC 1415(b); Education Code 56501)

Response to Due Process Complaints

If the district has not sent a prior written notice to the parent/guardian regarding the subject matter contained in the parent/guardian's due process complaint, the district shall send a response to the parent/guardian within 10 days of receipt of the complaint specifying: (20 USC 1415(c)(1); 34 CFR 300.508):

1. An explanation of why the district proposed or refused to take the action raised in the complaint
2. A description of other options that the IEP team considered and the reasons that those options were rejected
3. A description of each evaluation procedure, assessment, record, or report the district used as the basis for the proposed or refused action
4. A description of the factors that are relevant to the district's proposal or refusal

If the district has sent prior written notice to the parent/guardian regarding the subject matter of the parent/guardian's due process complaint, the district shall, within 10 days of receipt, send a response specifically addressing the issues in the complaint. (20 USC 1415(c)(1); 34 CFR 300.508)

Parties filing a due process complaint shall file their request with the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designated contracted agency. (Education Code 56502)

Informal Process/Pre-Hearing Mediation Conference

Prior to or upon initiating a due process hearing, the Superintendent or designee and a parent/guardian may, if the party initiating the hearing so chooses, agree to meet informally to resolve any issue(s) relating to the identification, assessment, or education and placement of a student with disabilities. The Superintendent or designee shall have the authority to resolve the issue(s). In addition, either party may file a request with the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a mediation conference to be conducted by a person under contract with the California Department of Education. (Education Code 56502)

If resolution is reached that resolves the due process issue(s), the parties shall enter into a legally binding agreement that satisfies the requirements of Education Code 56500.3. (Education Code 56500.3)