School related terms you should know...

IDEA or IDEIA: Individuals with Disabilities Education (Improvement) Act

IDEA is the federal law that provides for all children to have an appropriate education. The law was enacted in 1975, reauthorized in 1997, and updated in 2004 to more closely match the 'No Child Left Behind Act'. The law requires every school district to identify, evaluate, and serve children with special education needs. The law covers children ages 3 to 22. A child must meet the federally defined criteria for one of thirteen categories to be qualified for special education or related services. Children with cancer are usually qualified under the 'other health impaired' category. Children suffering from late effects of cancer treatment are sometimes qualified under different categories, depending on the difficulty experienced by the child.

Special Education

Specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.

FAPE: Free and Appropriate Public Education

Special education and related services provided in conformity with the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and without any charge to the parent.

OHI: Other Health Impaired

Condition which causes limited strength, vitality or alertness that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment. The condition must have an adverse effect on the child's educational performance to qualify for services. Children with cancer are generally eligible for special education services under the OHI designation.

Related Services

Transportation and any developmental, corrective, or supportive services that are identified on the child's IEP and are necessary to allow the child to benefit from educational services. Examples of related services are door-to-door transportation, speech and hearing services, occupational therapy, or school nursing services.

MFE: Multi-factored Evaluation

An evaluation process conducted by a team of professionals after written consent is provided by the parents. The team may include teachers, psychologists, parents, therapists, or other specialists. After evaluation the team will meet to discuss the child's eligibility for special education services.

IEP: Individualized Education Plan

A plan developed by the school district and parents to meet the unique educational needs of a child with a handicapping condition.

Home Instruction

Individualized special education services provided to a child with a handicapping condition that prevents the child from attending a regular or special education program even with the aid of special transportation. One hour of instruction is provided for each day of school missed.

