



Parent Concerns Statement

Helping the IEP Team Understand Your Child

Writing an Effective Parent Concerns Statement

Parent concerns are an important part of the IEP process. A Parent Concerns statement provides an opportunity to share your perspective about your child's strengths, challenges, and educational needs.

The most effective concerns statements are:

- ✓ Objective
- ✓ Specific
- ✓ Educationally focused
- ✓ Supported by examples when possible
- ✓ Forward-looking



Remember

Your concerns become part of your child's educational story. Thoughtfully written concerns help document what you observed, what you requested, and what was important to your family at that point in time.

Rather than focusing only on what isn't working, explain what you are seeing and what you hope the team will consider.

Tips for Writing Your Own

Before submitting your concerns, ask yourself:

- Have I described my child's strengths?
- Have I identified my primary concerns?
- Did I include examples rather than conclusions?
- Have I explained how these concerns affect my child's education?
- Have I clearly stated what I would like the team to consider?
- Does my statement encourage collaboration?



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Sample Parent Concerns Statement

Date

Re: Parent Concerns, Student Name, Student ID#

We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective before the IEP meeting and ask that these concerns be considered as part of the team's discussion.. We continue to have concerns about reading comprehension, written expression, and executive functioning skills.

Although classroom grades suggest our child is making adequate progress, we continue to observe significant difficulty completing assignments independently, organizing materials, and applying reading skills to unfamiliar text. Homework often requires substantial adult support and takes considerably longer than expected.

We are also concerned that our child's current progress does not appear sufficient to close the gap with grade-level expectations. We would like the team to review current progress data, discuss whether the existing goals and services remain appropriate, and consider whether additional supports or instructional changes may be needed.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate as equal members of the IEP team and look forward to working collaboratively to develop an IEP that appropriately addresses our child's individual needs.

Advocate Tip

Your Parent Concerns Statement is not the place to argue your case or cite the law.

Its purpose is to help the IEP team understand your child's educational needs from your perspective and to ensure those concerns become part of the discussion. Provide your statement before the IEP meeting whenever possible so team members have an opportunity to review your concerns in advance.