# Stay Put Provision (34 C.F.R. § 300.518)

The Stay Put provision of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) protects students during disputes between parents and school districts. When parents challenge a proposed change to a child’s placement or services, the child is entitled to remain in their last agreed-upon educational placement until the dispute is resolved. This ensures continuity of services and prevents disruption while due process hearings, mediations, or appeals are pending.

## Important Legal Note

The Stay Put right is automatic and mandatory once a due process complaint is filed. Districts cannot unilaterally change a student’s placement, reduce services, or alter methodology without parental consent during this period. Courts have enforced Stay Put as a critical safeguard for protecting students from regression and ensuring stability during legal disputes.

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| Case | Key Holding |
| Honig v. Doe, 484 U.S. 305 (1988) | U.S. Supreme Court held that Stay Put is a fundamental procedural safeguard under IDEA, preventing unilateral changes by districts. |
| M.R. v. Ridley Sch. Dist., 744 F.3d 112 (3d Cir. 2014) | Confirmed that Stay Put requires districts to maintain placement throughout all levels of dispute, including appeals. |
| Joshua A. v. Rocklin Unified Sch. Dist., 559 F.3d 1036 (9th Cir. 2009) | Stay Put applies to the current educational placement in effect at the time a due process complaint is filed. |

**Takeaway for Parents:  
Stay Put means your child’s last agreed-upon placement and services cannot be changed while you challenge a district decision. This protection ensures stability and prevents loss of progress during disputes. If the district attempts to reduce or alter services after you file a complaint, you can invoke Stay Put to keep your child’s program intact until the matter is resolved.**