



**Teacher
Protection From Retaliation for Advocating on Behalf of a Student with a
Disability in a Planning & Placement Team Meeting**

Background

One of the primary obstacles to students with disabilities getting the services they require in our public schools is that the people who work with them the most, their teachers or providers, often feel pressured not to recommend services due to potential district reprisals.

As an example, parents often report that one of their child's service providers told them that their child needed additional supports, but they were told this "off the record" because the person was afraid of losing their job.

SEEK's Position

While it is not SEEK's position that all teachers fear reprisal for advocating for their students, or that all districts employ retaliatory practices, we cannot ignore the results of SEEK's survey of parents and professionals that reported these practices. Ultimately, any lack of advocacy by school professionals has the potential to deny a child with a disability a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). This is a violation of the federal law known as IDEA, which governs special education in our country.

What this Legislation Means for Teachers and Other School Staff

This CT legislation allows educators at a PPT meeting to openly recommend an appropriate educational program for a student with a disability, without fear of retribution of any kind. SEEK hopes that the end result will be more honest,

transparent discussions about services for children with disabilities, and ultimately better education for all. This legislation is available for teachers and other school staff to share with their administration and other school employees.

What this Legislation Means to Parents

Parents can bring this legislation to their IEP team's attention. By doing so, parents alert both school staff and administration that protections are in place for school staff to freely advocate on behalf of children with disabilities at PPT meetings.

Suggested Email Correspondence

Dear IEP Team Members,

I am looking forward to the IEP team meeting on behalf of my daughter/son. In my ongoing efforts to have honest and transparent discussions regarding my daughter's/son's needs, I would like to have all parties consider Public Act No, 19-184, (*effective July 1, 2019*) which states:

No local or regional board of education shall discipline, suspend, terminate or otherwise punish any member of a planning and placement team employed by such board who discusses or makes recommendations concerning the provision of special education and related services for a child during a planning and placement team meeting for such child.

For the full bill, you can go to the Legislation page at www.SEEKCT.com

Thank you,

Parent Name

To find the full Bill, go to the "Legislation" page at WWW.SEEKCT.COM