Parent Refusal of IEP Services

Parents may refuse to give written consent to an initial IEP proposal or they may withdraw consent previously given for IEP services. In the event that a parent refuses or withdraws consent for IEP services, the IEP Team must honor the refusal, but the child is no longer protected by the procedural safeguards of the IDEA. Parents must provide such refusal or withdrawal of consent in writing. The parent’s written refusal can be provided in a separate letter or email, or it may be written on the IEP document in the Procedural Safeguard section of the IEP, below the area where the parent’s signature is given for the proposed IEP.

Upon receipt of a parent withdrawal of consent for previously given IEP services, in addition to honoring the request, the IEP Team must provide prior written notice of the cessation of services to the parent. This requirement is met by addressing the areas named: Services Discontinued date, Exit Reason and Additional Recommendations for Student in the Transition & Cessation section in Goalview. The Procedural Safeguards section also should be addressed, indicating the parent withdrawal of consent as a relevant factor to the proposal. Providing a printed copy of the IEP to the parent with these revisions will meet the prior notice requirement.

When a parent refuses to give written consent to an initial IEP proposal or withdraws consent previously given for IEP services, the refusal or withdrawal is for the entire proposal, not just a part of the proposal. If the parent does not consent to part of the IEP, the parent should be encouraged to provide consent and use available dispute resolution processes to resolve the disputed parts of the IEP, so that agreed upon services may move forward. When a parent withdraws previously given consent to IEP services, the refusal is not retroactive.