



## Surrogate Parent Statement

A surrogate parent is a person designated to assume responsibility in matters relating to the identification, evaluation and educational placement of students for whom no parent or guardian can be identified, or their whereabouts are unknown, or the child is a ward of the state. Surrogate parents are volunteers who are trained by Capital Area Intermediate Unit staff to serve in this capacity. To qualify as a surrogate parent, you must meet all of the following qualifications:

- Be a volunteer
- Be a person of good character
- Be at least 18 years old
- Not be an employee of any agency involved in the education or care of the child
- Possess reasonable abilities to make decisions concerning a student's educational needs
- Be committed to becoming acquainted with the student's educational needs and with Pennsylvania's educational system
- Have no vested interest that would conflict with the primary allegiance to the student you would represent

Surrogate parent duties include becoming familiar with special education regulations, being involved in IEP processes and receiving notifications regarding evaluation and/or educational placement of the student. If you or someone you know has an interest in serving as a surrogate parent, please contact the Intermediate Unit <https://www.paiu.org/ius.php>.