

# Tyrone Area School District

SECTION: **PROGRAMS**

TITLE: **SURROGATE PARENTS**

ADOPTED: **DECEMBER 5, 2005**

REVISED:

<b>113.1. SURROGATE PARENTS</b>	
1. Authority	<p>The Tyrone Area School District policy on the use and training of surrogate parents has been adopted to comply with law.</p> <p>The district recognizes that in the process of a child’s education, parents play an important role in safeguarding the rights of a child with disabilities. To ensure the rights of children who are wards of the state or where parents are unknown or unavailable, the district will identify those children and appoint an individual to represent the child in matters of education.</p>
2. Definition	<p>A <b>surrogate parent</b> is a trained individual acting in place of a parent in matters of education for a child. The surrogate parent will be assigned by the district to ensure that the child’s rights for a free appropriate public education are developed and maintained. The surrogate parent will act in place of a parent for the child concerning his or her educational program by being involved in planning, understanding of procedure and rights, and will receive notices concerning evaluation and placement.</p>
3. Guidelines	<p><u>Parent Status Not Determined By Residency</u></p> <p>A person who satisfies the definitional criteria established above in this guideline shall have all the rights, protections, and obligations of a parent under IDEA 2004 and Chapter 14 of the regulations of the State Board of Education regardless of whether he or she resides with the child for whom he or she is a parent.</p> <p>School district staff may presume that legal notices and other papers required by law to be given to the parent of a child with a disability have been effectively delivered to all persons qualified to act as a parent of that child when such notices or papers are mailed or sent by other reliable means of conveyance to the address identified through the registration process as the residence of the child for school attendance purposes. If the school district staff have actual knowledge that a person qualified to act as a parent of the child is not receiving such notices when mailed or delivered in accordance with this section, copies of notices or papers shall be sent or delivered separately to the residence of the parent.</p>

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	<p><u>Surrogate Parents</u></p> <p>If a staff member responsible for contacting or providing notice to the parent of a child with, or thought to have, a disability determines after reasonable investigation of the circumstances that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. No parent, as defined by this policy, can be identified.</li><li>2. Neither the school district nor other social services or law enforcement agencies involved with the child or the family of the child can discover the where about of a parent as defined by this policy.</li><li>3. The child is a ward of the state as defined by the Secretary of Education.</li></ol> <p>The school district shall appoint a qualified surrogate parent to perform the functions and exercise the rights of a natural parent/guardian in accordance with IDEA 2004 and Chapter 14.</p> <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>School district personnel will provide training for a surrogate parent which will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Acquainting the surrogate parent with the student.</li><li>2. Describing the current educational program.</li><li>3. Identifying key people in the school system.</li><li>4. Familiarizing the surrogate parent with the procedures for Individual Education Program development, due process procedures, and confidentiality of records.</li><li>5. Familiarizing the surrogate parent with comparable educational programs provided by the school district.</li></ol> <p>5. Qualifications of Surrogate Parents</p> <p>The Tyrone Area School District, individually or in concert with other school districts, shall recruit and maintain a list of names and contact information concerning persons who are willing to serve as surrogate parents and who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Is not an employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8, the Tyrone Area School District, or any agency that is involved in the education or care of the child.</li><li>2. Has no interest that conflicts with the interest of the child he or she represents.</li><li>3. Has obtained all criminal and child abuse background clearances required by law.</li></ol>
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|  | <p>4. Has knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the child, including training provided by the school district or by another source recognized as credible by the school district concerning parent and child rights and responsibilities under IDEA 2004 and Chapter 14 of the regulations of the State Board of Education and available programs and services for children with disabilities.</p> |
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