

Contact us for more information about fostering and education.

- Section 504 plans
- Special Education Evaluations
- Special Education Services
- Utah State Office of Education (USOE)
- Utah Parent Center (UPC)
- Utah Foster Care (UFC)
- Utah Department of Human Services (DHS)

“My foster child has Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and he has a hard time focusing. It'd be great if he could sit in the front so he could pay attention better.”



## CONTACT

### Need our help? We want to hear from you.

If you think your legal rights have been violated because of a disability, Disability Law Center may be able to help. If you are not sure whether we can help, contact us anyway. If we can't help, we'll try to connect you to someone who can. Disability Law Center does not charge its clients for services.

### Disability Law Center

205 North 400 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

M-F 9:00am-4:00pm

(800) 662-9080  
FAX (801) 363-1437

[disabilitylawcenter.org](http://disabilitylawcenter.org)

# FOSTERING YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

## Navigating the School System

UTAH



*“I’m fostering a child with Autism who needs someone to check on her at school because she loses assignments easily.”*

## 504 Accommodation Plans

504 Plans provide accommodations for students with disabilities to help them access education. Preferred seating, assignment modifications, and check-ins are just a few examples of 504 accommodations.

Foster parents can request 504 accommodations to help their foster child access education. Discuss this further with your child’s case manager for further support.

Requests for 504 accommodations must be made in writing to the principal and general education teacher. Email is a great way to make these requests.

Documentation of the disability and recommended accommodations from professionals working with the child will help this process.

Section 504 Law <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/reg/ocr/edlite-34cfr104.html>

## Special Education Evaluation

A student must qualify for special education and related services. When you enroll your foster child at school, ask if the child is receiving special education and related services. This is also known as having an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

If the school responds that your foster child *is not* receiving special education and related services, and you think the child needs them to benefit from school, you can make a request in writing (email) for an evaluation to be conducted.

### Making a Request for a Special Education Evaluation

- **Make the request to the principal, general teacher, and special education teacher.**
- **Make the request in writing. An email is sufficient.**
- **Provide a deadline for the response. Two weeks is sufficient.**



## Special Education Services

If your foster child *is* receiving special education services, they should have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Foster parents have the right to:

- **Review your foster child’s IEP.**
- **Request an IEP meeting to discuss and revise the IEP as needed.**
- **Provide input on the IEP goals and services.**
- **File a complaint if services are not appropriate and/or provided.**

As a foster parent, you may be asked to act as the parent on your child’s IEP team. Work with your child’s case manager and the school team to determine your involvement and to involve the child’s biological parents (if parental rights have not been terminated).

The goal is to ensure special education services are appropriate and benefiting your foster child.

Special Education Law <http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Laws/Rules.aspx>