

Volunteers Needed as SURROGATE PARENTS

**Free training provided by
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System – South**



What is Surrogate Parent?

A Surrogate Parent acts as an educational advocate for a child who requires Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services. The position requires making informed decisions about the child's educational needs, attending meetings, and monitoring programs, much like a parent or guardian would. It is an important responsibility. The Surrogate Parent will receive free, appropriate training to act in the place of the natural parent or guardian.

Which students need Surrogate Parents?

A child is in need of a Surrogate Parent when the child's parent, after diligent inquiry, remains unknown, or the child is a ward of the state or the court, or the whereabouts of a parent cannot be discovered, and when the child is an exceptional student, or is suspected of being an exceptional student. The school district is responsible for appointing a Surrogate Parent to act in place of the parent in the special education decision-making process.

Who can be a Surrogate Parent?

The minimum qualifications for becoming a Surrogate Parent are:

- The person must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Florida, and above the age of 18.
- The person must not be employed by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools or the Department of Children and Families.
- They must have knowledge, skills and experience through successfully completing free Surrogate Parent training, provided by FDLRS-South.
- The person must have time to get involved in the educational program of the child, and must have no interests which conflict with the interest of the child whom they represent.

For information on eligibility and training, contact:

**Ms. Iliana Hernandez, Community Liaison Specialist
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System - South
305-274-3501 Main Office or 305-754-4081 North Satellite**

