Preparing Students for Understanding Their Rights

- Students should understand their disability and be able to advocate for themselves.
- Students should understand why they receive special education services.
- Students should receive written and oral notification of meetings.
- Students should be notified of changes in placement with explanations on why those changes occurred. This notification should be in the communication mode best suited to each individual student.
- Students should participate and assist in the direction of the IEP meetings.
- Students should receive explanations on the type and purpose of evaluations.
- Students should be involved in the interpretation of test results.
- Students should be given the opportunity to review their educational records.
- Students should know their rights under the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Students should participate in self-advocacy and self-determination training.
- Students, their parents and teachers should meet prior to the student’s 18th birthday to discuss specific rights and their implications of those rights in the educational process.

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