

July 14, 2020

Submitted via rulecomments@education.ohio.gov

Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Comment on Proposed Rule Change to OAC 3301-51-05 Procedural Safeguards

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly oppose the proposed change to remove the parental consent requirement for changes in placement. I oppose this change because it will diminish my ability to participate in decisions about where my child receives an education, and will make it harder for me to actively participate in the IEP process. The current rule prevents my child's IEP team from overruling my opinions without having a thorough discussion about my child's needs, and explaining fully to me the reasons behind the school's proposals. If the proposed change goes through, I believe my district will not listen to my concerns and will instead make unilateral decision about my child. I also believe that my school will make these decisions without fully considering all other available options. I am basing my opposition on my personal experience with my school.

[paragraph with personal example on how current rule has protected/befitted their own child and their own participation in the process, including: 1) brief description of child and background facts regarding the proposed change of placement, 2) brief explanation of why parent was opposed to the change in placement/how it was detrimental, 3) how the current rule protected the child and how the team worked together to determine a better option/how parent's voice was heard, 4) reasonable explanation of how the outcome could have been different if this rule is changed/what dispute resolution options they would've had to utilize/how different options are not accessible for money, time, etc. reasons]

In summary, removing the parental consent requirement would be incredibly detrimental to parents of students with disabilities. The consent requirement is the strongest protection parents currently have and is necessary to ensure my voice as a member of the IEP team is heard.

Sincerely,

/s/ [Parent name]