

SURROGATE PARENTS - SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-four Board of Education to select surrogate parents for special education students when it is appropriate. This selection shall be made from a list of eligible individuals who are willing to serve as surrogate parents.

Persons selected as surrogate parents shall not be officers, employees or agents of the local school district or State Education Department. These persons must have no other interests which could conflict with their allegiance to the child. They must be committed to acquaint themselves with the youngster and his/her educational needs whenever possible. The surrogate parent shall, whenever possible, be of the same racial, cultural and linguistic background of the pupil he/she will represent and be familiar with the educational options available to students with disabilities.

A surrogate parent will be chosen by the Board of Education when parent or guardian is unknown, unavailable or the student is a ward of the State. Names of approved surrogate parents are on file in the Committee on Special Education office.

Board of Education

ADOPTED: March 23, 1995