

**GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES**

February 26, 2009

Dear Parents:

We want to bring to your attention a change in *federal law* that may affect your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

The change addresses a topic called "revocation of parental consent." It applies only to parents who inform the school district in writing that they are revoking (taking back) their consent for special education services. In past years, parents were able to revoke "partial consent" for services listed on an IEP, as when they stated that they did not wish to have their child receive speech/language services, but they were still able to retain everything else included on the IEP.

The new rule from the federal government says that if you revoke your consent, we *cannot implement any part of* your child's IEP. This would include every service and accommodation listed on the entire IEP. Therefore, if you revoke consent, your child would no longer receive any special education program and service, testing accommodations, assistive technology and due process, even if you only wanted to remove one service. As a result, your child would no longer be considered a student with a disability.

To summarize, from this point onward if you decline any service on an IEP, that declination of a service will be considered a revocation of consent and the entire IEP will not be implemented, as noted above. It is important to note that the school district did not have any part in changing the regulation, but because it comes from the federal government, we will be using this rule at all upcoming meetings of the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.

Should you have any questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact the Pupil Personnel Services Office at 478-1050.

Sincerely,

Catherine Wheeler
Director of Pupil Personnel Services