

SURROGATE PARENT POLICY

NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #56-7

- I. Identification of member at the district or building level responsible for referring students in need of a surrogate parent.
 - a. Surrogate parents shall be appointed by the district superintendent or designee.
 - b. The district shall ensure that a person selected as a surrogate has no interest that conflicts with the interest of the child he or she represents and has knowledge and skills that ensure representation of the child.

- II. Provide inservice training for determining whether a child needs a surrogate parent.
 - a. Ensure that the rights of a child are protected when no parent can be identified.
 - b. A surrogate parent will not be appointed until after the district, after reasonable effort cannot discover the whereabouts of a parent.
 - c. A surrogate parent may represent the child in all matters relating to the identification, evaluation, education placement of the child, and the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

- III. Establish a referral system (placement committee) within the district for the appointment of a surrogate parent.

- IV. The district superintendent is responsible for reporting to the placement committee on the performance of the surrogate parent.

- V. Continuation as a surrogate parent: An individual assigned as a surrogate parent shall continue in that capacity as long as the child meets the following conditions.
 - a. Remains eligible for special education or special education and related services.
 - b. Meets the criteria for the appointment of a surrogate parent or unless the person appointed as a surrogate parent fails to represent the best interest of the child.
 - c. Remains a resident of the placing district.
 - d. Removal of an individual as a surrogate parent shall be accomplished by the district superintendent or designee.

Date

Superintendent

READOPTED JUNE 12, 2000

Review Date/Initials: December 8, 2008/LF

President of the Board