



SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING FORM

Adult Student Name: _____

Address (Street/City/Zip): _____

I understand that I may create a network of individuals to help me inform my educational decisions related to my Individualized Education Program (IEP) once I reach the age of majority (18 years old). I would like the following people to assist me with making educational decisions. I understand that my parent or other individuals listed below may support me in the decision-making process related to my IEP. **However, I understand that such support is only intended to assist and inform my decisions, and that I alone represent my interests in any IEP decisions, educational decisions, and in any formal proceedings, including any administrative, state, or federal complaints or other legal proceedings.**

Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone Number: _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone Number: _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

(Multiple forms may be used if there are more than two individuals identified to assist)

Revised: June 2018

Attachment B



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These members may have access to the following educational documents if I have initialed the box next to it:

Document	Access
IEP Meeting Invitations and Agendas	
Requests for Assessments	
Requests for Changes in Placement	
Requests for Changes in Services	
Exit Requests	

Document	Access
Progress Reports	
Report Cards	
Attendance Information	
Assessment Results	
Other:	

I acknowledge and understand that I make the final decisions about my educational future after talking to members in my network, and can remove a member from my network, or their access to my educational documents at any time. I also understand that although I may designate a person as a support team member, I alone must be the direct contact for WCSD employees regarding my IEP and all education decisions and I must take lead in all discussions and decisions regarding my IEP. A support team member is not permitted to speak on my behalf and/or represent my interests in any educational decisions or legal proceedings. I further understand that WCSD is under no obligation to notice, invite, or gain consent from a support team member and that only I have the right to receive such notices and invitations and only I can provide consent for services or for other educational supports. I further understand that if I have any questions regarding this form, I can contact WCSD Office of Student Services at 775-789-4633.

In signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing supported decision-making form, that my handwritten entries are a true and correct reflection of my intent to designate a supported decision maker and that I was not influenced from any third-party person or entity in consenting herein.

Adult Student Signature

Date

Network Member Signature

Date

Network Member Signature

Date



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Frequently Asked Questions

After the Age of Majority (18)

Q: Does the Washoe County School District require students to submit a Supported Decision-Making Form?

A: No, it is not a requirement and is one of many available options. Rather, the SMS form is meant to provide guidance and support for students and families. When students turn 18 years of age, they have the right to bring anyone to an IEP meeting. By completing the SDM form and submitting it to the WCSD, the student is notifying district staff of the adult network members who are able to assist the student in making educational decisions as well as accessing the student's educational records.

Q: What is the role of the Adult Student in the Supported Decision Making (SDM) process?

A: Once a student reaches the age of majority, they can decide all educational decisions, including who attends the IEP with them. This is important as students learn to advocate for themselves and make decisions through their teens before they reach the age of majority. However, many students with disabilities need people who they trust to participate in the IEP process and help them to make decisions. The student will always make the final decision but will rely upon the individuals in the SDM process to help them make the best educational decisions for them.

Q: Is the Supported Decision Making (SDM) process the same as Guardianship?

A: No, SDM is significantly different than guardianship. With SDM, students still make their own decisions. However, the student identifies adults to help them to make decisions rather than making decisions for them. Obtaining guardianship is a legal process within the court system and is outside the authority or purview of the WCSD.

Q: Who can be a member of the Supported Decision Making (SDM) network?

A: The student determines who are trusted supporters in their lives and who can support them make educational decisions. The only qualification the WCSD requires is that the members are over the age of 18 years.



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Q: What does a member of a Supported Decision Making (SDM) network do?

A: The members only guide the student and provide recommendations; the student is the final decision maker. In order for network members to support the student, a copy of the SDM form must be completed and submitted to the WCSD.

Q: What documents are needed to begin a Supported Decision Making (SDM) process?

A: The Washoe County School District created a form necessary for the SDM process. Students choose their adult network members based on who they believe can support them to make educational decisions. Both the student and network member(s) must complete and sign the SDM form. The SDM form does not allow the SDM members to make decisions on behalf of the student.

Q: How do I become involved in the Supported Decision Making (SDM) process?

A: There is no formal process that the student or the supportive member needs to follow. The SDM form needs to be completed by the student and signed by all participants and submitted to the WCSD. Everyone should receive a copy of the form and the WCSD will keep a copy of the form as part of the student's records. The agreement can be terminated at any time by the student or any supportive member.