



Age of Majority

Massachusetts has established 18 as the age of majority. At that age, all students are considered adults and competent to make their own decisions.

The right to make his/her own decisions extends to every student with a disability who is receiving special education services. The eligible student becomes responsible for making all decisions in relation to special education programs and services at age 18.

Beginning at least one year before your child reaches the age of majority; the school system must inform your child and you that the educational decision-making rights transfer to your child upon reaching the age of 18. A statement that your child has been informed of his/her rights must be included in the IEP.

You - the parent - will continue to receive written notices and information, but will no longer have decision-making authority, except as provided below:

- ◆ If you have received guardianship from the court of competent jurisdiction, then you retain full decision-making authority.
- ◆ Your student, upon reaching the age of majority, and in the absence of any court actions to the contrary, may **choose** to share decision-making with you, including allowing you to co-sign the IEP. Such **choice** shall be made in the presence of the Team and shall be documented in written form.
- ◆ Your student, upon reaching the age of majority, and in the absence of any court action to the contrary, may **choose** to delegate continued decision making to you. Such **choice** shall be made in the presence of the team and documented in written form.

