

## PARENTAL CONCERNS

The present level of academic and functional performance (PLOP) section of the IEP must also include the concerns of the parent. This portion of the PLOP is specifically called “Parental Concerns.” Parents should spend time writing out each concern they have before attending any meeting to draft or revise your child’s IEP.

Parental concerns may include:

- Areas of need the parent believes have not been identified
- Issues the parent sees at home that the school may not see
- Any other issue the parent is aware of that may impact the child in the school environment

dLCV advises parents to write concerns out in bullet format and ask the IEP team to add the concerns exactly as written. If the team is unwilling, dLCV advises parents to review any summary the team drafts to be sure every point made by the parent is covered.

Remember, the purpose of parental concerns is to document everything the PARENT believes is important to consider when developing an educational program for his or her student.

If a school is unwilling to add parental concerns in the IEP at all, the school must provide the parent with a prior written notice (PWN). The PWN documents a parent’s request for something related to a student’s special education needs and the reason the school denied the parent’s request. Parents are very important members of IEP teams, second only to the student. As such, the IEP must include the parent’s voice in the section appropriately called parental concerns!