



A quarterly publication from Families Together, Inc., the Parent Training and Information and Health Information Center for the State of Kansas

ENDREW

What does it mean for our kids?

During March 2017, the final decision was made in the Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District dispute. The decision is an important one because it sets a higher standard for all children with disabilities in the future.

The final decision by the Supreme Court means all children will have IEP's that will enable them to make progress appropriate to their circumstances, based on the Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) standard.

FAPE is defined as services that are provided to a student (at public expense), that will meet the standards of our state's educational agency, including preschool, elementary, or secondary schooling, and an IEP that meets national and state regulation requirements.

In a 16-page decision, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, writing for a unanimous court, rejected the school district's *de minimis* standard. He wrote that IDEA aims for "grade level advancement for children with disabilities who can be educated in the regular classroom." Therefore, a *de minimis* standard makes no sense: When all is said and done, "a student offered an educational

program providing merely more than *de minimis*" progress from year to year can hardly be said to have been offered an education at all." For children with disabilities, receiving instruction that aims so low would be tantamount to "sitting idly ... awaiting the time when they were old enough to drop out."

This is a large win for our students with disabilities. With this ruling, schools now must actively show they are working toward measurable progress that "must be appropriately ambitious in light of the child's circumstances".

For ways to use this ruling to ensure your son or daughter has an appropriately ambitious IEP, read the report (link below) or contact Families Together, Inc.

Read a full report here:
<http://bit.ly/2kxULLz>

If you'd like more information about this decision, search online for *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District*.

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TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS

How to Communicate with Your Child's Doctor

BEFORE

- Write questions
- Create a list
- Note any changes

DURING

- Get answers and ask questions
- Take notes
- Allow care recipient to openly express opinions
- Review notes

AFTER

- Call to clear up questions
- Update care plan

To learn more visit:
[cdc.gov/aging/caregiving/
index.htm](http://cdc.gov/aging/caregiving/index.htm)

ENDREW

¿Qué significa para nuestros hijos?

En marzo de 2017, la decisión final se tomó en la disputa de Endrew F. v. escolar del Conadado de Douglas. La decisión es importante para las familias porque establece un estándar más alto para todos los niños con discapacidades en el futuro.

La decisión final de la Corte Suprema ahora significa que todos los niños tendrán un IEP que permitirá que un niño progreso apropiados con sus circunstancias, basándose de acuerdo en el estándar de Educación Pública Apropriadada (FAPE).

FAPE se define como servicios que se proporcionan a un estudiante (en el costo público), que cumplirán con los estándares de la agencia educativa de nuestro estado, incluidos la educación preescolar, primaria o secundaria, y un IEP que cumpla con la reglamentación nacional y estatales.

En una decisión de 16 páginas, El Presidente de la Justicia Tribunal Supremo, John G. Roberts, escribiendo para una corte unánime, rechazó el estándar de minimis del distrito escolar. El escribió que IDEA tiene como objetivo “el avance del nivel de grado para niños con discapacidades que pueden ser educados en el aula regular.” Por lo tanto, una norma de minimis no tiene sentido: Cuando todo está dicho y hecho, un estudiante ofreció un programa educativo que proporciona progreso

“meramente más que de minimis” de un año a otro difícilmente se puede decir que se le ofreció una educación en absoluto. Para los niños con discapacidades, recibir instrucción con que apunta tan bajo equivalente a “sentarse de brazos cruzados... esperando el momento en que tenían la edad suficiente para” dejar” la escolar.”

Esta es una gran victoria para nuestros estudiantes con discapacidades. Con esta decisión, las escuelas ahora deben demostrar activamente que están trabajando hacia un progreso medible que “debe ser apropiadamente ambicioso a la luz de sus circunstancias.”

Para aprender a usar esta decisión para asegurarse de que su hijo tenga un IEP apropiadamente ambicioso, lea el reporte (enlace abajo) o comuníquese con Families Together, Inc.

Si desea obtener más información acerca de esta decisión, busque en línea Endrew F. V. Douglas County School District.



K-Loan: What It Is and How It Can Help You

Frequently, assistive technology equipment, i.e., hearing aids, accessible vehicles, sensory aids, communication devices, and home modifications are extremely expensive. Most traditional lenders limit what specialty equipment they finance and the terms offered on such equipment. K-Loan knows how critical such equipment is and knows some equipment has longevity beyond a couple of years. That is why we offer longer terms to eligible borrowers on a case by case basis. Let us know how we can help you.



K-Loan is an Alternative Finance Program offered through Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK), the statewide assistive technology program, coordinated by the University of Kansas. K-Loan was established and is directed by persons with disabilities. It is a consumer-run program designed to provide persons with disabilities and their families with access to financial resources toward acquiring assistive technology through education, saving and borrowing.

The low interest loans are designed to help individuals with chronic health problems or disabilities obtain a variety of equipment that can be used at home, school or on the job. Funds can be used to help with the purchase of assistive technology equipment ranging from hearing aids to mobility devices. Personnel can help identify alternate funding sources.

To learn more about the K-LOAN program, contact K-Loan at 620-421-6554 in Parsons or call toll-free 1-866-465-2826.

Thank You, Education Advocates

We pondered for some time about what to write for this newsletter and then it hit us—we should just thank you for your time, energies, and commitment to the 978 kids that you serve.

This has been a really tough school year for many of our kids. Numerous kids found themselves without placement, some for long periods of time. Many kids had multiple moves. These factors undoubtedly have affected educational progress, particularly for our high schoolers who need to accumulate credit to graduate. Amidst this, you all were willing to step up to the plate and do what you could do for kids. It is easy to get frustrated and forget to celebrate the successes of many kids served by an advocate, like graduation and adoption finalization.



If you are serving a child who has graduated or achieved permanency, please let us know. Enjoy your summer and take time to rejuvenate and re-energize for the 2018-2019 school year!

From the Director's Desk

Dear Parents and Appointed Education Advocates,

The Families Together staff all wish each of you a restful and enjoyable summer. If you have a child in your home who has an IEP, think of one or two things you can incorporate into your summer schedule to reinforce some of the skills they have been working on at school. These could be social skills, or academic skills, but something you can work on as part of your day. Maybe it is greeting people with eye contact when out in the community; maybe it is setting the table each day with the right utensils for each person having dinner. If you can make it fun and enjoyable and something your child or young adult can find pride in, it will make a difference in their self-worth and in their lives later.

Have you wondered about ways to support the services Families Together provides? Here are some quick and easy things to do:

- Check your United Way contribution and designate Families Together as the agency you want to support
- For Federal Employees, designate Families Together by using our CFC#: **33538**
- Designate Families Together as your charity at Amazon smile and Dillions

Check the calendar for FEAT training coming to a town near you!

Connie



Harmony for a Cause



Families Together, Inc. wishes to thank our sponsors and everyone who attended our grand celebration benefit on April 21 at the Distillery, 244 Old Town, Wichita, KS. Ernie Biggs' Dueling Piano Roadshow provided our fabulous entertainment.

The evening began with a medley of favorite Beatles songs followed by several live auctions. We want to thank Dr. Gilbert Omido of Omido Exquisite Dentistry as our venue sponsor. Our Musical Inspirations Partner was The Family of Captain Chris Norgren. Happy Hour sponsors were Kemp Financial Service and Stoppel Investments, LLC. Crescendo partners were Building Controls, Enegren Computers, Mid-Kansas Pediatrics, and Woner, Reeder & Girard Law Firm. Tempo sponsors were Special Products, Hinkle Law Firm, Conrade Insurance Group and Legacy Bank.

Most of all, thank you to everyone who attended our event and helped us to raise funds to help families who have children with special needs.

Families Make the Difference

Garden Center 1-888-820-6364
gardencity@familiesogetherinc.org

Topeka Center 1-800-264-6343
topeka@familiesogetherinc.org

Wichita Center 1-888-815-6364
wichita@familiesogetherinc.org



- facebook.com/
FamiliasUnidasKansas/
- facebook.com/
FamiliesTogetherInc/

July 17, 2018	<u>Education Advocate Training</u> <u>Concordia</u>	1-800-264-6343
Aug. 29, 2018	<u>Education Advocate Training</u> <u>Wichita</u>	1-800-264-6343
Sept. 8 & 14, 2018	<u>Family Employment Awareness Training Part 1 & 2</u> <u>Topeka</u>	1-800-264-6343
Sept. 22 & 28, 2018	<u>Family Employment Awareness Training Part 1 & 2</u> <u>Hutchinson</u>	1-888-815-6364
Sept. 25, 2018	<u>Education Advocate Training</u> <u>Olathe</u>	1-800-264-6343
Oct. 19 & 20, 2018	<u>Spanish Family Enrichment Weekend</u> <u>Wichita</u>	1-888-820-6364
Oct. 23, 2018	<u>Education Advocate Training</u> <u>Topeka</u>	1-800-264-6343
Nov. 2 & 3, 2018	<i>Parent Leadership Conference</i> <i>Topeka</i>	1-800-264-6343

Be sure to contact one of our offices if you have any questions or if you would like to register for one our events.