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**Supreme Court Decides Special Education Case**

You’ve probably heard the buzz about the recent Supreme Court decision relating to special education. In a rare moment of high drama in the world of special education law, the Supreme Court handed down a ruling in Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District over-turning aspects of the special education cases that had been decided by Judge Neil Gorsuch, the Supreme Court nominee, *just as Judge Gorsuch was defending those cases in his nomination hearings.*

So, what exactly was decided in the Endrew F case and what does it have to do with your child’s special education? The short answer is that the Endrew F case is good news for children with disabilities: it raises the bar for the standard of education due to your child under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.). This standard – known as the F.A.P.E. (“free appropriate public education”) standard – had previously been interpreted by several courts of appeals (including the 7th Circuit, which is the Court of Appeals incorporating Illinois and the 10th Circuit from where Judge Gorsuch hails) as meaning that a child’s IEP must simply provide a child the chance to make “merely more than *de minimis*” progress. In Endrew, the Supreme Court expressly rejected the “more than *de minimis*” standard as too low. Instead, the Court held that an educational program provided under an IEP must “be reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child’s circumstances.”

The Endrew case was decided just in time for Spring IEP season. In your child’s IEP meetings, you can hold up your child’s IEP to this more rigorous standard. Emphasize that the Supreme Court said that a child’s “educational program must be appropriately ambitious in light of his circumstances” and that “every child should have the chance to meet challenging objectives.” Gently but firmly nudge your child’s IEP team toward an educational program that will allow your child to make appropriate progress.