

I'm in support of the burden of proof being placed back on the school district as opposed to the parent(s). With the exception of this summer, I have found myself in filing for a Due Process Hearing with the Philadelphia School District for three consecutive years. The last one was the only time we couldn't come to an agreement during the pre-hearing session. I found myself in unfamiliar territory by having to burden of proof force upon me. With my inability to secure the services of an attorney due to my financial situation and the fact that my issue surrounded ESY, Extended School Year, (most attorneys would not have taken my case).I must admit it was a blessing to have two days of hearing with a reasonable amount in between them. This gave me the opportunity to reflex back on my mistakes from the failed first day, familiarize myself with the process of the hearing (recalling points given by the hearing officer) and find confidence to proceed on. I was blessed with a successful second day. Looking back I know that I submitted more than enough information, some not permitted. I just wanted to make sure I had my son's case well covered. Knowing that I had to be an offensive player, create great amount of stress and doubt at time for me. I am accustom to defending my son's right, I felt me being on the offense but the school district at an unfair advantage. It also puts my son's rights at risk of being not being in forced. Parent(s) with special needs should not be put in the compromising position I feel having the burden of proof puts them in.

***June Bey***  
***Parent in Philadelphia School District***