



What to Expect at the Public Meetings

During public meetings, the Department is looking for verbal comments on the proposed regulations for Part C of IDEA. If you decide to testify at a public meeting, the process for providing comment should proceed as follows (adapted from CEC):

- **Prepare** your comments ahead of time. DEC provides suggestions for crafting the written comments.
- You may show up at a meeting **an hour before or at anytime** while it is taking place.
- Once you are there, you will **sign in and be given a number**, which indicates when you will speak.
- Depending on the number of people who show up at the meeting, you could speak almost immediately, or **you may have to wait** until those with earlier numbers speak first.
- We recommend that you either **choose one topic to focus on** and discuss or summarize your positions on specific aspects. In other words, do not try to discuss everything in your written comments.
- When your number is called, you will be given **five minutes** to sit in front of two or three people from the U.S. Department of Education and **provide your focused comments** (five minutes goes faster than you think!).
- When you are finished, **someone from the Department may ask you a question** for clarification, but more often than not, they will say "thank you" and you are done.
- **Bring five written copies** of your comments to leave with the Department.