



# Draper Notes

September 19, 2014

## **Parents Question Why All Children's Hospital Student Evaluation Reports Not Accepted in DeSoto**

In conversation with several DeSoto parents that have requested testing from DeSoto to see if ESE services are necessary for their children, startling information has emerged. These parents grew tired of waiting as tremendous amounts of time passed with no communication from ESE regarding the testing status of their children. These parents understood that initial observations and interventions in the classroom were necessary before formal testing could begin. After months, and in some cases over a year had passed, these parents decided to take their children to All Children's Hospital for evaluation testing. Please know that All Children's Hospital is a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine. It was named in the top 50 children's hospital by *U.S. News & World Report*. In summary, All Children's Hospital has a stellar reputation in evaluating children's needs and providing the best care.

All Children's Hospital then evaluated these children at no expense to the DeSoto School District. In each case, the evaluation reports on these children recommended evaluations start immediately for possible ESE placement.

The DeSoto ESE Office's response, according to the parents, was rather amazing. DeSoto ESE would not accept the All Children's Hospital evaluation reports because *they always side with the children*. It is rather remarkable that the DeSoto School District ESE office has taken an adversarial role with All Children's Hospital. It is always assumed that a hospital, working with a school district, is on the children's side.

Perhaps the DeSoto superintendent and ESE director need to review the federal laws regarding evaluation reports provided by parents of children from qualified doctors and hospitals. The school district does not need another expensive lawsuit. The message that All Children's Hospital evaluation reports are not acceptable in the DeSoto School District sends a negative message. Most importantly, the timely process for providing our children with necessary educational services comes to a standstill. Our children lose.