

COPAA-News is a service of The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc. and may be shared with others.

The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.

A national voice for special education rights and advocacy

April 28, 2009

PRESS RELEASE

COPAA Files Amicus Brief in Supreme Court Case *Forest Grove School District v. T. A.*

COPAA has filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court case *Forest Grove Sch. Dist. v. T.A.* Oral argument is being heard today. *Forest Grove Sch. Dist. v. T.A.* involves the important legal question of how the courts should interpret the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and whether a school district may avoid its obligations under the IDEA when it fails to identify a child as having a disability and as a result fails to provide the required free appropriate public education. COPAA's brief focuses on the need for the Court to interpret the IDEA broadly.

In the specific case, the parents are seeking reimbursement for private school tuition they paid because the school district failed to identify the child as having a disability. The Supreme Court will not be considering or deciding whether the particular private school in the case was appropriate, or was the least restrictive environment. COPAA is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities are educated in the least restrictive environment and free from abuse and neglect.

A copy of COPAA's brief is available on our website at <http://www.copaa.org/news/forestgrove.html>

Contact:

Selene Almazan, Esq., COPAA Amicus Committee Co-Chair
410-859-5400
amicus@copaa.org