

Broder Law Group, P.C. will keep you up to date on legal issues affecting special education.

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Medford's new playground will be accessible to all kids

State regulations forced Medford Township to reconsider its plans to expand Fort Medford playground, and now those plans include Burlington County's first play area adapted for the special needs of children with disabilities.

The park, originally built by a parent blitz in 1995, was closed for safety reasons most of last year. Township officials were planning its comeback when they

realized state rules called for at least half of it to be handicapped accessible.

They sparked a new determination to revamp the entire area. The new area, targeted for a spring opening, will be double the size of the original park.

Find out about the new Fort Medford and learn how to contribute to the donation-fueled effort at the [Township's website](#).

Broder will
speak to
your group

Parents who attended a recent workshop in Bankbridge in Sewell, N.J., learned from Seth N. Broder about the ins and outs of law advocacy and special planning for special needs families.

The invaluable service lets parents learn loads of information without cost or strings attached. Mr. Broder is available to other groups who want to share information with their members. To inquire, call 856-227-5100.

Parents win results in case of bullied boy with Asperger's

Parents of a Seattle boy with autism won the right to put him in a specialized private schooling at the public district's expense after a lawsuit that claimed the public school didn't protect their son from bullying.

The parents said the boy was harassed almost daily and that administrators responded by suggesting he stick up for himself. They also punished him for a verbal outburst, taking away recess privileges. They did little after a school psychologist requested intervention, although later they assigned a non-trained adult to shadow him for portions of the school day.

Parents of the boy, who has Asperger's

syndrome, said he now suffers from anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. The district agreed to pay his tuition at a private school that only went to the 10th-grade level, then expected him to rejoin his previous bullies at the public high school.

An independent evaluation ordered by a state judge sided with the parents. The district fought that until an administrative law judge agreed with the ruling. Now the boy is in a half-day private academy and half-day marine biology program that meets his special interests, with the public district picking up the cost.

The [Seattle Times](#) has more details on the disturbing background of this case.