

Understanding my Child's IEP

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Parents' Role in the IEP

- The parents' role is to be an active participant in the process by being an open and curious member of the IEP team, asking questions, understanding and saying what their child needs and advocating for appropriate goals and services.
- Keep careful records of your child's education, including any testing and any IEP reports. Find a way to file these carefully so that you have them on hand readily if needed.
- Learn as much as you can about your child's disability.

4 Key Parts

- Eligibility Section: Why your child qualifies for Special Education?
 - Make sure you are in agreement with the classification.
 - If you do not understand the classification, ask questions.
- The PLAAFP Section: Present Levels of Academic and Functional Performance
 - This may be the most important part of the IEP because it tells you how the school assesses your child's skills.
 - The PLAAFP will focus on your child's needs to help direct his learning.
- The Goals Section:
 - Goals should be specific to the needs of the child – what they will be working on during the year.
 - Progress monitoring of Goal should happen at least 4 times a year. .
- Accommodations/Modifications Section:
 - Speak up if you feel other things should be added.

Types of Meetings

- Initial Identification/Evaluation Planning Meeting:
 - During this meeting the team will meet with the parents to discuss concerns in the classroom and at home. This is done to decide which evaluations need to be completed to address the concerns.
- Eligibility Meeting:
 - This meeting happens 90 days after the initial meeting.
 - Evaluations that were completed should be mailed home 10 days prior to this meeting, for the parent to review.
 - During this meeting, after the review of the evaluations. The team will discuss eligibility for Special Education, as well as the classification.

Continued Information

- Annual Review Meetings:
 - This meeting happens yearly. Parents may request a meeting at any time, not just yearly.
 - They should include updated information of your child's performance in the classroom and how they are progressing with their Related Services (OT, PT, Speech), if they receive them.
- Triennial Reevaluation Meetings:
 - This meeting happens every 3 years.
 - At this meeting you will discuss continued eligibility. Formal evaluations may be completed to monitor growth and progress, however, informal evaluations may be used to determine continued eligibility.
 - Formal Evaluations are: Psychological, Educational, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy or a Neurological.
 - Informal Evaluations are: Teacher comments and input, Parent input, Related Services input.
 - If the parent would like a specific evaluation completed at this time, they may request them.

Continued Information

- Preschool evaluations:
 - If a student has Early Intervention(EI), paperwork from EI will be forwarded to the school and they team will reach out to the parents to set up a planning meeting.
 - If a student was not involved in EI, a parent can still write a letter requesting that their child be referred for evaluations by the Child Study Team. This letter should be sent to the Director Of Special Services or the Director of Special Education.
 - One the team receives the letters or referrals from EI, they will sett up a Planning Meeting with the parents to discuss concerns and the evaluations that will be completed.

Preparing for your IEP Meeting

- Make a list of questions you want to ask before you go into the IEP meeting (you can even put them in your phone with speech to text). This will help to ensure you discuss all that is on your mind in relation to your child's evaluation, IEP, or educational needs.
 - How are the IEP goals monitored?
 - What strategies will be used to implement the goals?
 - Who will implement them?
 - How will I receive updates of progress?
 - What can I do at home to support the goals?

Continued Information

- It is important to know your rights as a parent with a child who has an IEP.
 - You should be provide a copy of Parental Rights in Special Education P.R.I.S.E, at every meeting.
 - You do not need to agree at the meetings, you have 15 days to make a decision if you agree to the IEP.
- Reach out to your child's school if there is anything you want to mention or ask about after the IEP meeting.

Continued Information

- You are entitled to request more information related to your child's education or IEP at any point throughout the school year.
- If needed, the school can call another IEP meeting at any time. If you feel your child needs more support, less support, or if you have a general question or concern, don't be afraid to speak up at any point throughout the year.

Questions

