

Acronyms cont'd:

- IFSP** Individual Family Service Plan
- IQ** Intelligence Quotient
- SLD** Specific Learning Disability
- LEP** Limited English Proficient
- LRE** Least Restrictive Environment
- NCLB** No Child Left Behind
- OT** Occupational Therapy
- PLP** Present Levels of Educational Performance
- PT** Physical Therapist/Therapy
- RRC** Regional Resource Center
- RTI** Response to Intervention
- SEA** State Education Agency
- SI** Sensory Integration
- SLP** Speech and Language Pathologist
- SST** Student Study Team
- STO** Short Term Objective
- TBI** Traumatic Brain Injury
- USDE** United States Department of Education
- VI** Visual Impairment



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Parent Guide to the IEP Process

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What Is “Special Education?”

Special education is a specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of a student with a disability when those educational needs cannot be met with modification to the general education program. Federal and state laws require that all students be provided with an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

What is the Parent’s Role?

You are an integral part of your child’s education, thus, a vital member of the IEP team. You are an expert on your child and have insight that no one else has. You will be asked to share personal and educational history of your child during the IEP meeting. You will also be asked to share your short and long term goals for your child. It would be helpful to bring any pertinent medical records along with a list of current medications.

What Programs & Services are provided through Special Education?

Special Education support services may be provided in the general education classroom or in a separate class and may include related services such as: speech and language therapy, physical and occupational therapy, adapted physical education, and counseling services.

How many disabilities are there?

There are 13 specific disabilities: Deafness, Hard of Hearing, Intellectual Disability, Speech or Language Impaired, Visual Impairment, Emotional Disturbance, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Deaf/Blindness, Multiple Disabilities, Autism, Traumatic Brain Injury.

IEP PROCESS

Step 1. Child is identified as possibly needing special education and/or related services.

Step 2. An assessment plan is developed with parental consent. This evaluation must assess your child in all areas related to the child’s suspected disability. Parents will be provided a copy of the assessment results.

Step 3. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting is scheduled to discuss evaluation results and determine if the child is eligible for special education services.

Step 4. If the child is eligible, the team, which includes the parents, determine the services best suited to the needs of the child. Individualized goals and objectives are developed along with how progress will be measured and communicated to the parents. These goals are written to be achieved within one year. All members of the team must consent to the IEP document before implementation can begin.

Step 5. The IEP team will meet annually to review progress or more often if needed. Every three years, special education students are reassessed and the IEP team will meet to discuss evaluation results, eligibility, and appropriate services.

Acronyms: Decoding Your Child’s Services

- ADA** Americans with Disabilities Act
- ADHD** Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- APE** Adapted Physical Education
- ASD** Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ASL** American Sign Language
- AT** Assistive Technology
- AU** Autism
- AYP** Adequate Yearly Progress
- BD** Behavior Disorders
- BIP** Behavioral Intervention Plan
- CAA** California Alternate Assessment
- CEC** Council on Exceptional Children
- CD** Cognitive Delay
- CST** California Standards Tests
- CP** Cerebral Palsy
- DB** Deaf-Blindness
- DD** Developmental Disability
- DPH** Due Process Hearing
- ED** Emotional Disturbance
- EI** Early Intervention
- ELL** English Language Learner
- ESY** Extended School Year
- FAPE** Free Appropriate Public Education
- FBA** Functional Behavior Assessment
- IDEA** Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- IEP** Individual Education Program