

The IEP– What it IS and What it is NOT

Any member of the IEP team may ask for a meeting to make changes in the IEP at any time.

You and the school staff will learn new things about your child as you work with him or her. As you work together, you will find ways to make the IEP more useful.



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*The IEP-
What it is...*

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Every child with a disability who is eligible for and needs exceptional student education will have an IEP...



...Individual Education Plan . The IEP is a written plan for the special education of a child with a disability. It

describes your child and what you and the school will do to give your child the help he or she needs. Since parents help to write IEPs for their children, it is important that you know what goes into an IEP. You should also understand what will happen at **IEP meetings and after the IEP is written.**

The IEP is like a road map for your child's ESE services. It describes what your child can already do and what your child needs to learn. It lists the kinds of help your child will need in order to learn. Here are some things the IEP will tell you:

- What your child knows and can do now and what your child needs to learn
- What your child should learn by the end of the year
- The services, supports, **accommodations** and **modifications**, and **assistive technology** your child will receive during the year
- What you have agreed to do to help your child
- How your child's progress will be measured

There are three very important things for you to remember about IEPs:

- The IEP is written for your child only
- There is only one IEP at a time for your child
- The IEP is a plan for one year of your child's education. (The IEP team may decide to write and IEP for a shorter period of time.

Note: If your child is age three to five years and you and the school district agree, the IEP team may develop a **family support plan (FSP)** instead of an IEP.

The IEP- What it is NOT

As your child grows, learns, and changes, the IEP will need to change...

The IEP is not a daily lesson plan. It will not tell you each little thing a teacher will do with your child. It won't take the place of the plans that teachers write for a day or a week.

The IEP is not an evaluation report.

An evaluation report describes your child's strengths and weaknesses. It lists your child's interests and special learning needs. It may include the results of tests your child has taken. The information from an evaluation report is used to help write the IEP.

The IEP is not a contract. The IEP describes things that you and the school have agreed to do for your child. It cannot promise that all the special help will work. There are many things that affect your child's learning. The school cannot control your child's health or things that happen outside the school, for example.

The IEP does not last forever.

As your child grows, learns, and changes, the IEP will need to change. A new IEP must be written *at least* once every 12 months.

However, the IEP may be changed as often as you and the school agree that it needs to be changed.