

Getting Ready for Your Student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) Meeting

Every student with a disability who is eligible for exceptional student education (ESE) services will have an IEP. An IEP is a written plan for the special education of a student with a disability.

The IEP is like a road map.

The IEP describes what your student can already do and what your student needs to learn in order to reach her goals. The IEP also identifies the kinds of help that will be provided to your student. Your student's IEP will be written by a team of people at an IEP meeting. The IEP team will decide which special services and supports your student needs in order to make progress.

You are an important member of the IEP team.

If you are representing a student with a disability, you should participate in the IEP meeting effectively in the process.

Keep in mind—

- The IEP is written for an individual student only.
- The IEP is a plan for up to 12 months of your student's education.

Who can be on the IEP team?

The following people can be at an IEP meeting:

- You (parents or legal guardian)
- Your student
- At least one ESE teacher who provides, or may provide, services to your student
- Your student's general education teacher
- Someone who understands the evaluations that have been done for your student and can explain them (this may be one of the school district staff already on the attendee list). If you have obtained any additional evaluations, provide them in advance of the meeting.
- Someone from the school district who knows about special education and the school district's resources (this may be your student's ESE teacher)
- Other people invited by you or the school

You may, in writing, excuse a team member from the IEP meeting if that member's area is not being discussed or if that member provided input for the development of the IEP before the IEP meeting.

How can I get ready for the IEP meeting?

Think about the goals you have for your student's future. Make a list of what your student can do, likes to do, and needs to learn, and the types of help needed, including what has worked or not worked before. Talk with your student about the IEP process and what your student wants from it.

Let the school know in advance if you will need a translator or if you need to change the meeting

What happens after the IEP meeting?

After the first IEP has been written, you will be asked to give written consent for your student to receive ESE services. If you give your consent, the school will begin implementing the IEP by providing the specially designed instruction and services in the IEP. Check that all the plans are being carried out and that your student is making progress.

Continue to look over your student's school work, keep in touch with your student's teachers,