



Kennedy Krieger Institute

Specialized Health Needs Interagency Collaboration

## Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Ages 3-21

Once a child meets IDEA Part B eligibility criteria, a free and appropriate education (FAPE) is implemented through the Individualized Education Program (IEP). An IEP is a written plan developed by a team including school personnel, parents, and the student. The IEP team will consider the academic, developmental, and functional needs of the child to develop a plan that enables a child the appropriate access to their education. Under Part B, every public school child who receives special education and related services must have an IEP. It also requires that children with disabilities be educated in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

### Components of an IEP

- Child's present level of educational performance
- Family's concerns for the child's education
- Measurable annual goals
- Services provided in the least restrictive environment

### Members of IEP team

- Parent(s) of the child
- Student, if age appropriate
- General education teacher (no less than one)
- Special education teacher (no less than one)
- School district representative that can commit resources
- Individual(s) who can interpret the instructional and evaluation results including physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech/language, hearing and vision specialists, school psychologist, school nurse

### Transition planning

- Transition planning is federally required to begin by the age of 16.
- The IEP must include a description of the transition services to support the child to become an independent young adult.
- Transition services section of the IEP is a long-term individualized program that addresses future goals in education, vocational training, employment, and independent living.

## Helpful information

- An IEP describes a child's unique, individualized educational program.
- Services covered can include disability-related evaluations and screening, special education services, and related services such as speech-language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychological services, and assistive communication.
- An IEP is reviewed at least once a year.
- A child is reevaluated every 3 years.
- IDEA requires certain information be included in a child's IEP but does give states some flexibility. IEP documentation/forms may differ by state and/or school system.

## Resources

Hands and Voices-Appendix B General Provisions of IDEA Part C and Part B

<http://handsandvoices.org/astra/docs/appendix-B.pdf>

Pacer Center Action Information Sheets-What is the difference between an IFSP and an IEP?

<https://www.pacer.org/parent/php/PHP-c59.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education-A Guide to the Individualized Education Program

<https://www2.ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/iepguide/index.html>