



# IEP

## Individualized Education Plan



## What every parent needs to know about IEPs

### What is an IEP?

The *Individualized Education Plan* or IEP is a written document that includes information about your student's progress and future learning goals. The IEP should address any needs your student has that may impede their learning. It should also document what the school is going to provide to help your child succeed. If your child is receiving special education services the law requires the development of an IEP. The IEP should include specific goals for your child that will need to be updated each year.

### How is an IEP different from a 504 plan?

Not all students with disabilities require specialized instruction. A *504 plan* (sometimes called an IAP) is for students with a disability that influences their learning but accommodations (not specialized instruction) are sufficient to help them access the curriculum. A 504

plan is easier to put into place than an IEP; it details needed accommodations and describes how they will be put in place.

### What is an IEP meeting?

The IEP meeting is where different school personnel and the parents (guardians) meet together to discuss how the school can best support the child's learning needs. Broad goals and specific learning objectives for each area of need are discussed and support services are decided upon. For example, if your child's evaluation indicated they had a speech disorder then the IEP should specify speech related goals and services from a speech-language pathologist. Interventions need to be included in all the areas documented as needs, whether these needs are considered part of a certain disability category or not.



### IEP Tip # 1

Most schools want what is best for your child. Despite this, they often have financial and time limitations that may affect student services. Don't go overboard with requested services, but do advocate for addressing your child's primary needs.



### IEP Tip # 2

Stay positive during the IEP meeting and recognize the school's attempts to provide appropriate services. Your child will benefit if you have a strong relationship with school personnel.

## Where should my child receive services?

The IEP should indicate where your child will receive the added services and instruction. Law typically requires the students be educated in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) where their needs can be met. When 80% or more of a student's day is spent in the regular education classroom, this is considered a less restrictive environment if it meets the student's needs. Time spent outside of the regular education classroom (including students who spend considerable time in the special education classroom) is generally considered more restrictive (but may be appropriate if their needs are met). The team should discuss what is the most appropriate LRE for the student. Parents should consider that more time in special education settings (even though it may provide "more help") takes students away from their typical peers and needed exposure to the general education curriculum.

## What if I don't agree?

Parents may sometimes not agree with a certain element of the IEP plan. In this



case, the parent should continue to work with the school personnel to reach some agreement. If no agreement can be reached, there are formal procedures that can be used to help resolve the disagreement. The parent can withdraw consent for any one or more elements of the plan and the school should still provide the aspects that are agreed upon.

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact your **Live Oak Children's** service provider.

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FAX: (985)-327-7253

INFO@LIVEOAKCHILDRENS.NET

## Additional Resources

You can visit Louisiana's Department of Education website to find more resources about your parental rights.  
[www.louisianabelieves.com](http://www.louisianabelieves.com)

You can also visit their resource library found under the library tab. Under the family support tab, you can find information on understanding school test scores, school curriculum, and at the bottom a digital copy of your procedural safeguards booklet. This booklet provides in-depth information about the IEP and should be provided to you by the school. If need a physical copy be sure to ask your school for one and they can provide it free of charge. The family resource library can be found at:  
[www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library)

Parent related information can be found at the Center for Parent Information and Resources at: [www.parentcenterhub.com](http://www.parentcenterhub.com) A detailed parent IEP guide can be found at: [www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/pa12/](http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/pa12/)

Parenting information for children with disabilities can be found on the U.S. Department of Education website at: <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>

Specific resources for parents of children with an autism spectrum disorder can be found on the National Autism Center's website at:  
[www.nationalautismcenter.org](http://www.nationalautismcenter.org)



### IEP Tip # 3

Come prepared to the IEP meeting having read your student's evaluation and with a list of questions and needs you would like to have addressed by the team.