

What is an IEP?

An IEP is an Individualized Education Program for children who qualify for special education services by their local public school district. It is not an Individual Education Plan. Why isn't it a Plan? As the old saying goes, "plans are made to be broken!" A program on the other hand must be followed!! Congress in their infinite wisdom got this one right. It is a legally binding document that must be followed to the letter of the law and tailored to meet your child's unique needs. An IEP must include:

1. A statement of the child's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance;
2. A statement of the child's eligibility/disability category;
3. A statement of measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals;
4. A statement of the special education and related services and supplementary aids and services to be provided to the child;
5. A statement of the program modifications or supports for school personnel that will be provided to the child;
6. A statement of any individual appropriate accommodations that are necessary for the child on State and district wide assessments;
7. The projected date for the beginning of the services and modifications including the frequency, location and duration of those services and modifications;
8. By no later than the child's 16 birthday an Individual Transition Plan outlining measurable postsecondary goals, independent living skills goals and the transition services needed to accomplish those goals; and
9. By no later than one year prior to the Child reaching the age of majority a statement that the child has been informed of their rights upon reaching the age of majority (18years old in Mass).