

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an IEP?

An IEP is a written statement of the education program designed to meet a child's individual needs. Every child who receives special education services must have an IEP. The IEP has two general purposes: 1) to set reasonable learning goals for your child; and 2) to state the services that the school district will provide for your child. The IEP will contain information about your child's present levels of education performance, annual goals, special education services, dates and location of those services, and participation in state and district-wide testing.

How can a child be referred for help?

A student can be referred for assessment by a parent, teacher, or other school staff member. If you are concerned about your child's progress, contact your child's teacher or principal to request a meeting to discuss your concerns.

What are transition services?

Transition services are services or goals that are developed to provide students with the information and skills needed to plan for a successful "transition" to life post school. Transition services start at age 14 for students on an IEP.

What is the difference between an IEP and a 504 plan?

An IEP is written when a student qualifies for special education under one of 13 qualifying conditions. A 504 plan is a plan of accommodations within the general education setting.

Common acronyms:

AAC	Augmentative Alternative Communication
ABA	Applied Behavioral Analysis
ADA	American with Disabilities Act
ADA	Average Daily Attendance
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
APE	Adapted Physical Education
API	Academic Performance Index
AT	Assistive Technology
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress
BCBA	Board Certified Behavioral Analyst
BD	Behavior Disorder
BER	Behavior Emergency Report
BICM	Behavior Intervention Case Manager
BIP	Behavior Intervention Plan
CAC	Community Advisory Committee
CAHSEE	California High School Exit Exam
CALPADS	California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System
CAPA	California Alternate Performance Based Assessment
CCS	California Children Services
CDE	California Department of Education
CELDT	California English Language Development Test
CMA	California Modified Assessment
DHH	Deaf/Hard of Hearing
DIBELS	Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy
DIS	Designated Instructional Service
DMH	Department of Mental Health
DOL	District of Location
DOR	District of Residence
DRDP	Desired Results Developmental Profile
DTT	Discrete Trial Training
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ED	Emotional Disturbance
EL	English Learner
ELA	English/Language Arts
ESY	Extended School Year
FAA	Functional Analysis Assessment
FAPE	Free and Appropriate Public Education
FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment

FCOE	Fresno County Office of Education
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HOH	Hearing of Hearing
IA	Instructional Assistant
ID	Intellectual Disability
IDEA	Individualized with Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individualized Educational Program
ISP	Individual Services Plan
IFSP	Individual Family Service Plan
ITP	Individual Transition Plan
IWEN	Individual with Exceptional Needs
LEA	Local Educational Agency
LI	Low Incidence
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
MTU	Medical Therapy Unit
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
OHI	Other Health Impairment
OI	Orthopedic Impairment
O&M	Orientation and Mobility
OT /PT	Occupational and Physical Therapy
PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PECS	Picture Exchange Communication System
RSP	Resource Specialist Program
RtI ²	Response to Instruction and Intervention
SAI	Specialized Academic Instruction
SDC	Special Day Class
SEIS	Special Education Information System
SELPA	Special Education Local Plan Area
SESR	Special Education Self-Review
SH	Severe Handicap
SLD	Specific Learning Disability
SLI	Speech/Language Impairment
SLP	Speech/Language Pathologist
SLPA	Speech/Language Pathology Assistant
SSID	State Student Identifier
STAR	State Testing and Reporting
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
VI	Visual Impairment