

## ***The IEP***

The IDEA requires that every Special Education student have an Individual Education Plan or IEP. An IEP describes the educational goals for each individual student.

### **Some important things to know about IEPs:**

#### ***The IEP is a team effort.***

IEPs are created by a team who must agree to everything in the document. This team usually includes the student's teacher, parents or guardian, a representative from the student's school district, often the student's care manager, and, when possible, the student.

#### ***An IEP is a legally binding document.***

It is not just a set of good ideas, a work plan or a wish list. The teacher and other professionals are legally required to implement a teaching plan that will meet the goals of the IEP.

#### ***The IEP team has ongoing meetings.***

The IEP team meets periodically to insure that the IEP goals are being met and to review the student's progress. There may be times when you are asked to participate in an IEP meeting and tell the team about the student's progress.

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IDEA requires:  
"free and appropriate education"  
"least restrictive environment"  
"individual education plan"

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#### ***IEP goals are carefully chosen and tracked.***

IEP goals are based on an assessment of the student's strengths and needs and are designed to guide all instructional activities. The team collects data on the student's performance to see whether the instructional procedures are effective in meeting the goals.

Part of your role will be to assist in implementing a teaching plan that is created to specifically meet the goals of the IEP.

*Self-Guided Orientation for Special Education Assistants*  
*Section 1: Overview of Special Education*

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The Individual Education Plan (IEP) includes documentation of:

1. What the student \_\_\_\_\_
2. What the student \_\_\_\_\_  
(in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_)
3. How to \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is \_\_\_\_\_

All members of the IEP team should be involved in supporting the student.