

# Simple Terms

## **An IEP can be described as:**

- A legally-bound document created by a team of professionals that work with a child that is experiencing struggles in school.
- A product and process in guiding the instruction of disabled students.
- Defining the special instruction, services, and/or supports that a child will receive.

# Legal Terms

## **The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) guarantees:**

- What's in the IEP must be provided to the student.
- IEPs are reviewed at a yearly min. and can be requested at anytime
- Evaluations are every 3 years to determine whether services are still needed.
- To qualify for special education:
  - 1.. Diagnosed with a disability in one of the 13 categories outlined in the federal law and determined within meeting



## **RESOURCES** **WEBSITES ABOUT** **IEP FOR PARENTS** **AND TEACHERS**

### **Wright's Law**

**[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)**

### **Understood**

**[www.understood.org](http://www.understood.org)**

### **The Intentional IEP**

**[www.theintentionaliep.com](http://www.theintentionaliep.com)**

### **Parent Center Hub**

**[www.parentcenterhub.org](http://www.parentcenterhub.org)**

### **IDEA + Law**

**[www.sites.ed.gov/idea](http://www.sites.ed.gov/idea)**

For more information, visit:  
<https://education.vermont.gov/>

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# *What is an* **IEP?**

*Individual Educational Plan*



# Required Components

Depending upon where you work (state, country, type of school) IEP formats look different... but they all have common parts. · All IEPs must contain these parts:

- o student information
- o present levels of academic and functional performance
- o goals and objectives or benchmarks
- o related services
- o additional supports
- o progress reporting
- o testing
- o least restrictive environment determination
- o transition o parental consent

# Age and the IEP

Individuals from birth to age 21 who meet IDEA defined criteria can access special education and support services through parts B and C of IDEA.

o Part C: birth to age 36 months.

Individual receives an Individualized Family Service Plan

o Part B: age 3 to age 21

Individual receives an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

· Before a child reaches age 3, the team must come together to transition from Part C to Part B.

· Students with an IEP may remain in public school up to age 21 depending on their needs.

· At the ages of 12 and 14, students are expected to be invited to, and involved in, their own IEP meetings.

· By the age of 16, the IEP team should be working to develop a Transition Plan to help them to prepare for adulthood, including living, employment, and further education if applicable.

· Students beyond age 21 do not continue to receive IEP services, but may still receive accommodations through disability services at the college level/ place of work

# IEP is NOT

## A suggestion or recommendation.

o An IEP is a legal document and must be followed.

## Guaranteed for every child who struggles in school.

o Students must be found eligible for an IEP before an IEP is developed for them

## The only option for students facing challenges in school.

o There is a hierarchy of supports and processes in place for children based on their performance and needs at their school. o Teachers must collect and provide data, and trial multiple tiers of intervention, before considering an IEP.

o The team might consider implementing a 504 plan rather than an IEP, depending on the circumstances.

## A ticket to a separate classroom.

o Special education is a service, not a place.

## An accommodation shopping list.

o Each component of an IEP is developed with problem-solving and decision-making made by the entire team of professionals supporting the individual, based upon collected data which justifies the need.

## Provided by private schools.

o IEPs are required by federal law in public schools, so private schools are exempt from that requirement.

o Students may still be able to receive services through what is called an Individual Service Plan.

# Who qualifies for an IEP?

Any child age 3 and up who attends a public school, inclusive of charter schools, are eligible for an IEP, if they meet specific criteria.

1. The child must have a disability that adversely affects his or her educational performance.
2. The child must need educational and related services to access their education.

Disability categories outlined in the IDEA

- o Autism Spectrum Disorder
- o Deafness o Deaf-blindness
- o Emotional Disturbance o Hearing impairment
- o Intellectual Disability
- o Orthopedic Impairment
- o Other Health Impairment o Specific Learning Disability
- o Speech or Language Impairment
- o Traumatic Brain Injury o Visual impairment (including blindness)
- o Multiple disabilities