



**Morris School District
Demystifying the IEP
Presented by MSD SEPAG**

Topics



1 What is an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)?



2 Types of Child Study Team (CST) meetings



3 Review of Parental Rights



4 Frequently Asked Questions



5 Panel Discussion/
Questions

IEP 101: What is an IEP?



Definition

An IEP is an **Individualized Education Plan** which provides **direct services** and **modifications** and **accommodations** for a student identified as having a disability.



Legal Basis (IDEA)

Under the “Individuals with Disabilities Act,” school districts are required to provide a “Free and Appropriate Education” for students with disabilities.

Depending on the student, these services can include:



Direct
educational
services



Counseling



Related
Services



Consultative
Services



Targeted Goals
and Objectives

Types of IEP Meetings

1



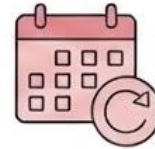
Initial
Evaluation
Planning

2



Initial
Eligibility
Determination

3



Annual
Review

4



Triennial
Reevaluation
Planning Meeting

5



Reevaluation
with Eligibility
Determination

Definition of Special Education

What qualifies a child for an IEP in NJ **IN GRADES K-12?**



Children must meet two requirements to be eligible for an IEP:



The child meets one or more of the 14 listed disabilities



AND the disability affects the child's ability to learn without specialized instruction.



There must be an educational impact.

Classifications

The disability adversely affects the student's educational performance, and the student is in need of special education and related services.



Auditory Impairment



Intellectual disability



Emotional regulation impairment



Deaf/Blindness



Other health impaired



Social maladjustment



Traumatic brain injury



Autism



Communication impairment



Multiple disabilities



Orthopedic impairment



Preschool child with a disability



Specific learning disability



Visual impairment

For more information see NJAC 6A:14-3.5

<https://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/parents/eligibility.shtml>

Types of IEP Meetings

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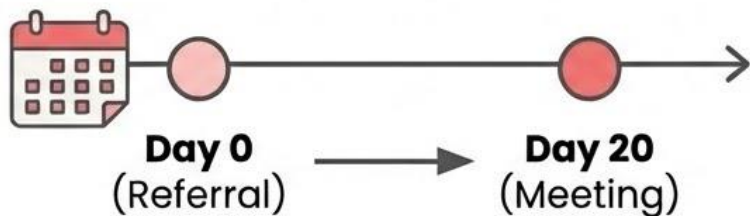
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Reevaluation
with Eligibility
Determination

Initial Identification and Evaluation Planning

When does it occur?



This meeting happens within 20 days of an official referral to the Child Study Team (CST)

Official referrals can come from:



School personnel
(administrators/teachers)



Intervention and Referral
Services Committee



Parents (must be signed)

Initial Identification and Evaluation Planning

Who attends?



- School Psychologist



- Learning Disability Teacher-Consultant (LDT-C)



- School Social Worker



- General education teacher who knows the student



- Related service providers (when applicable)



- Parent(s) or guardian



Parents are welcome to bring whomever makes you feel comfortable/knows your child best (we ask that you let us know)



Parents should be prepared to provide all relevant information before the meeting, so they can be discussed (e.g. prior evaluations, diagnosis, etc)

Initial Identification and Evaluation Planning

What happens at this meeting?

1. Discuss Data & Concerns



The team discusses student's data/ area of concerns

2. Determine Suspected Disability & Impact



The team determines whether there is a suspected disability that has an educational impact

3. Propose & Discuss Evaluations



If the team suspects a suspected disability, they will propose evaluations. The types of evaluations being proposed are discussed

4. Parent Consent



Parent/guardian must provide written consent in order for testing to occur

Types of Evaluations



Psychological evaluation



Speech evaluation
(if applicable)



Educational evaluation



Occupational therapy
(if applicable)



Social history




Physical therapy
(if applicable)

Types of IEP Meetings

1  Initial Evaluation Planning

2  Initial Eligibility Determination

3  Annual Review

4  Triennial Reevaluation Planning Meeting

5  Reevaluation with Eligibility Determination

Eligibility with IEP

When does it occur?



Within 90 days of
written consent
to test

Evaluations received
10 days prior to
meeting

How is eligibility determined?

- ✓ Student must have a disability according to eligibility categories
- ✓ Disability must adversely affect educational performance
- ✓ Student must be in need of special education



- If eligible, an IEP meeting will be held to develop the child's IEP.
- **An eligibility determination meeting and IEP meeting may be held at the same time.**

Eligibility with IEP

Who attends?



Case manager



General education teacher



At least one child study team member



Special education teacher (if applicable)



Parent



Student (when appropriate)



Student



Others at the discretion of the parent or school

Does a student qualify for an IEP based on evaluations and educational impact?

No



Continue in general education

Yes, student found eligible under one of the 13 classification categories

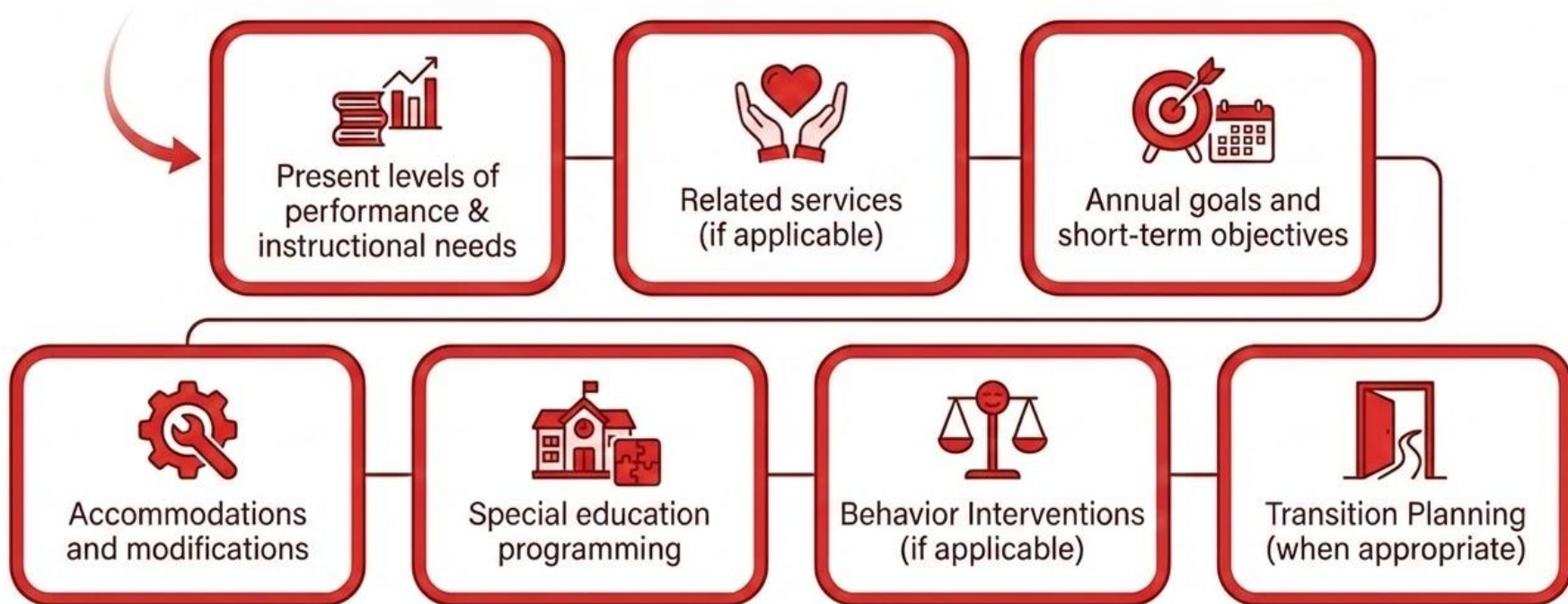


Move forward with IEP development

Eligibility with IEP

Initial IEP development

After your child is determined to be eligible, the team will develop your child's IEP. Includes sections such as:



Types of IEP Meetings

-  **1** Initial Evaluation Planning
-  **2** Initial Eligibility Determination
-  **3** Annual Review
-  **4** Triennial Reevaluation Planning Meeting
-  **5** Reevaluation with Eligibility Determination

Annual Review

When does it occur?



An IEP is reviewed at least one time annually per code.



But an IEP meeting can be called at any time to review/revise the IEP.

Who attends?



Student's case manager



Related service provider(s)
(if applicable)



Parent/guardian



Student
(if appropriate)



General Education teacher



Special Education teacher

Annual Review

What occurs at this meeting?



IEP Review & Planning

- The IEP team reviews a student's IEP at least once per calendar year
- A proposed IEP with services, modifications, accommodations, etc. is presented
- Updated goals and objectives are presented



Input & Collaboration

- Teachers provide input to students' progress (present levels of performance)
- Related service providers give their input
- Parent/guardian provide input to the document

Implementation of P.L. 2025, c.107

New Parent Notification Requirements for Annual IEP Meetings

Beginning this year, under P.L. 2025, c.107, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must provide parents/guardians with specific information at least **two (2)** business days before their child's annual IEP review meeting.

What Must Be Shared in Advance?

- A statement of items that will be discussed at the IEP meeting.
- The student's current levels of academic and functional performance.
- A list of any required IEP team members who the school is requesting to be excused from the meeting.
- This list must include each excused member's input regarding the programs and services for which they are responsible.
- This is in addition to any standard excusal consent forms already provided under federal and state regulations.
- An invitation for the parent or guardian to provide feedback on the proposed programs a student's IEP.

Purpose of the Law

- Promote meaningful parent participation
- Increase transparency in the IEP process
- Provide families time to review materials and prepare questions
- Support collaborative, student-centered decision-making

What This Means for Families

- You will receive materials at least two business days in advance
- You may review, annotate, and prepare questions
- Draft documents are not final - changes can be made during the meeting
- Your voice remains a critical part of the IEP team process

Types of IEP Meetings

1  Initial Evaluation Planning

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Triennial Reevaluation Planning



What is it?

- Within three years of previous classification, a student is up for triennial testing
- The team meets to determine which assessments are necessary to determine whether the student continues to be a student with a disability.
- The IEP team will discuss the scope of the reevaluation



Who attends?



Parent



Case manager



A CST member participating in the evaluation (school psychologist, LDT-C, related service provider etc.)



Special Education



General Education teacher

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Reevaluation with Eligibility Determination



What is it?

- Once consent for a reevaluation is received, the team has 60 days to complete the testing and hold a Reevaluation with Eligibility Determination
- Reports are sent home 10 days prior to the meeting



Who attends?

- Parent
- Case manager
- School psychologist
- LDT-C
- Special education teacher
- General education teacher
- Any other provider who completed evaluations

Reevaluation with Eligibility Determination



What happens here?

- A review of the testing, data, teacher input
- Determination of whether the student continues to be eligible for special education
- If eligible, an IEP meeting is held to review and revise the student's IEP



Who attends?

- Parent
- Case manager
- School psychologist
- LDT-C
- Special Education
- General Education teacher
- Related service providers (if applicable)

What are your parents'
rights?

Understanding Your Parental Rights



Consent & Participation



Bring whomever makes you feel comfortable/knows your child best



Parent/guardian must provide consent for testing to occur



Parent/guardian must sign consent for initial IEP implementation



Disagreements & Recourse



Ask for another IEP meeting



Request mediation session



Request determination (Due Process)



Right to ask for ONE independent evaluation

For more information, refer to the Parental Rights in Special Education (PRISE) booklet.

Frequently Asked Questions



Should I share the evaluations I had done for my child?

Yes, parents should share any/all evaluations that have been completed for their child if they are comfortable doing so.



When will I get a copy of the IEP?

You may ask for a DRAFT copy of the IEP at the meeting, the IEP is a collaborative document so edits, additions and corrections will occur during the meeting.



When will the IEP team send me a final copy of the IEP?

You may ask for a few days to review the draft IEP, IEPs will be finalized within 2-3 days if you have not asked for edits.

Questions?

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MSD SEPAG Closed Facebook Group
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