



Independence Plans

SEDAC
May 5, 2026

Would you rather....



HEAD

Have a personal GPS that shouts "TURN LEFT NOW!" every 5 seconds, even when you're in your own driveway



WAIST

Have a paper map that is slightly confusing, forcing you to pull over and figure it out yourself

Would you rather....



HEAD

Over-
prompting

Have a personal GPS that shouts "TURN LEFT NOW!" every 5 seconds, even when you're in your own driveway

Productive
struggle



WAIST

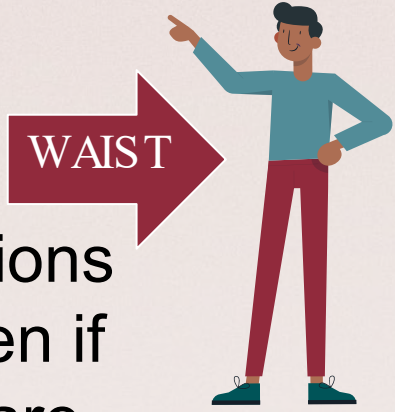
Have a paper map that is slightly confusing, forcing you to pull over and figure it out yourself

Would you rather....



HEAD

Have a professional chef hold your hand on the knife to chop every onion for you



WAIST

Chop the onions yourself, even if the pieces are uneven and you cry a little bit

Would you rather....



HEAD

Physical
prompting

Independence

WAIST



Have a professional chef hold your hand on the knife to chop every onion for you.

Chop the onions yourself, even if the pieces are uneven and you cry a little bit

Would you rather....



HEAD

Have a robot that follows you around and catches your coffee cup every time it tips, so you never spill a drop



WAIST

Spill your coffee once, have to clean it up, and eventually learn to buy a mug with a better lid

Would you rather....



HEAD

Permanent
bubble wrap

Have a robot that follows you around and catches your coffee cup every time it tips, so you never spill a drop

Safety net

WAIST



Spill your coffee once, have to clean it up, and eventually learn to buy a mug with a better lid

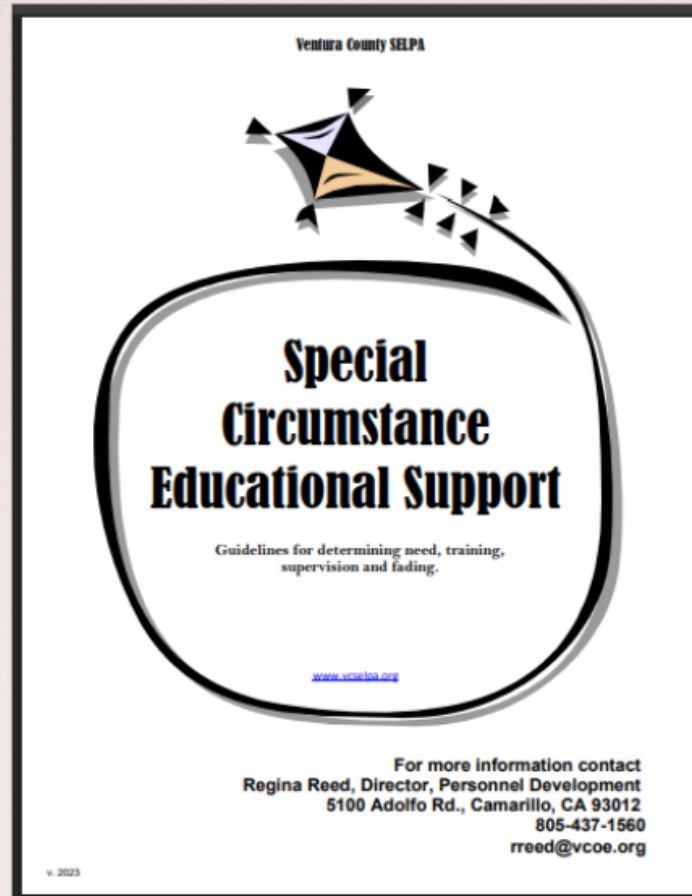
Turn and Talk

- Share reflections.
- How does this apply to our students receiving additional adult/ IIS services?

Today's goal is to answer:

- What is an Independence Plan?
- Is this something new?
- What should I expect if I'm a parent of a student with Intensive individualized support (IIS)/ additional adult support?
- Why is this important?

VC SELPA Guidance



What is an Independence Plan?

- An Independence Plan is a plan to ensure review and consideration of a students IIS/additional adult support.
- If a student with an IEP may require additional adult support, a Special Circumstance Educational Support (SCES) assessment may be proposed to determine whether natural supports and/or existing staff supports are not adequate for the student to participate and progress in their current educational program.

- If this is the case, and it is determined that a student requires additional adult support, the assessment results in a student receiving Intensive Individualized Services (IIS) in 1 or more of the following areas:
 - Health/Personal Care
 - Behavior
 - Instruction
 - Inclusion/Independence/Social Functioning

- If the IEP Team recommends IIS (additional adult support), the team is also responsible for monitoring so that additional supports may be faded as supported by data.

“If not carefully monitored and evaluated on a regular basis, additional paraprofessional support can unintentionally foster dependence.”

Is this something new?

Independence Plan for Intensive Individualized Services (IIS) Ventura County SELPA		
Student Name _____ SSID _____ D.O.B. _____ Meeting Date _____		
Area(s) of Need for Intensive Individualized Services:		
	Area(s)	Current data for student's area(s) of need (e.g. frequency, duration):
Health /Personal Care		
Behavior		
Instruction		
Inclusion / Independence / Social Functioning		
Description of how support is provided (activity/subjects, time(s) of day, level of support):		
See IEP goal(s) related to this plan: Goal Number(s): _____		

Independence Plan for Intensive Individualized Services (IIS), cont. Ventura County SELPA	
Student Name _____ SSID _____ D.O.B. _____ Meeting Date _____	
Incremental plan for building independence	
When the student demonstrates (objective data):	Description of how level of support provided will be changed:
Communication: ☐ Family/Caregiver ☐ School staff ☐ Outside providers ☐ Service providers ☐ Other _____	
Describe:	
Personnel Responsible for Monitoring Independence Plan Implementation:	
☐ Principal ☐ School Psychologist ☐ Behavior Specialist ☐ Case Manager ☐ Behavior Support Staff ☐ Other _____	

SELPA approved and implemented these pages as a new addition to IEPs at the end of the 24th year.

What should parents expect?

- If you are the parent of a child with an IEP who has Intensive individualized services (IIS) you should expect for these IEP pages to be reviewed and discussed as part of your student's yearly IEP review.
- You should expect that your child will have goals related to demonstrating progress toward independence in the areas in which they receive IIS support (unless it is an on-going medical need).

- You should expect that updates to this plan will be driven by current, quantifiable data.
 - The Independence Plan includes measurable benchmarks tied to a “Plan for Building Independence”. This means IEP teams have clear criteria to support discussions about adjusting support (staff proximity, prompting levels, etc) as students meet their goals.

Why is an Independence Plan important?

- Helps the IEP team monitor student progress and continued areas of need
- Focuses the team on looking forward
- Supports Least Restrictive Environment considerations
- Assists in planning for the student's future
- Establishes early communication with family
- Establishes mutual understanding of student needs
- ***Beginning the process with the future in mind***

Dignity of Risk



Thank you!



Questions?