

What is FAPE?

FAPE means that students with disabilities are entitled to special education and related services at no cost to the family, designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.

FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

Legal Foundations

- **IDEA 2004** – Requires FAPE for all eligible students with disabilities.
- **Article 7 (511 IAC 7-36-3)** – Indiana's special education regulations implementing FAPE.
- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act** – Prevents discrimination and supports accommodations for students with disabilities.

What Does FAPE Include?:

- Special education and related services at public expense and under public supervision
- Services that meet state standards and are based on the student's IEP
- Access to the general education curriculum
- Education with nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate
- Preparation for further education, employment, and independent living
- Instruction provided in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

What are my Rights as the Parent?

- You are a participant in making educational decisions.
- Your student receives services at no cost.
- Access to progress on agreed upon IEP goals regularly throughout the school year.
- If you believe things are not going well with services or your student is struggling, it is your right to contact the school and set up a Case Conference Meeting.
- You have the right to access your student's educational records.

Key Elements of a FAPE Compliant IEP

1. Present levels of academic and functional performance (PLAAFP)
2. Measurable annual goals based on student needs
3. Special education and related services required to support those goals
4. Supplementary aids and services, including accommodations
5. Participation in state/district assessments
6. Transition planning (required by age 14 in Indiana)

School Responsibilities:

- **Implementation of the IEP as written**
- **Providing qualified staff**
- **Monitoring progress on goals and communicating them to the parent**
- **Revising the plan when progress is insufficient**
- **Providing services to your student with the Least Restrictive Environment**

Questions Parents Can Ask:

- ✳ **How is my student's progress toward IEP goals being monitored?**
- ✳ **Is my student making meaningful progress toward IEP goals?**
- ✳ **What evidence supports the current services?**
- ✳ **Are accommodations being implemented consistently across all settings?**



Questions?

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