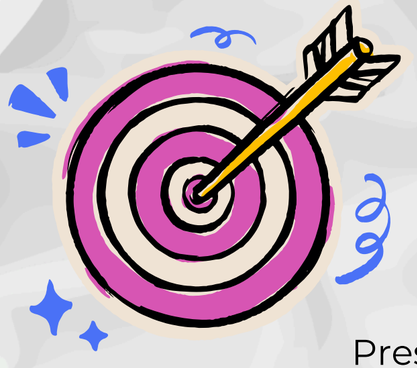
Teamwork at the ARD Table

Parent Tips for ARD Meetings





Presented by: Wise County Shared Services

What is an ARD meeting?

An ARD (Admission, Review, Dismissal) meeting is when parents, teachers, and staff meet as a TEAM to make decisions about your child's services, goals, and supports.





"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

– Helen Keller

Your Role as a Parent



- You are the expert on your child
- Your input is valued and required by law
- Share your child's strengths, challenges, and dreams for the future



"It takes a village to raise a child." – African Proverb

Who’s on the Team?

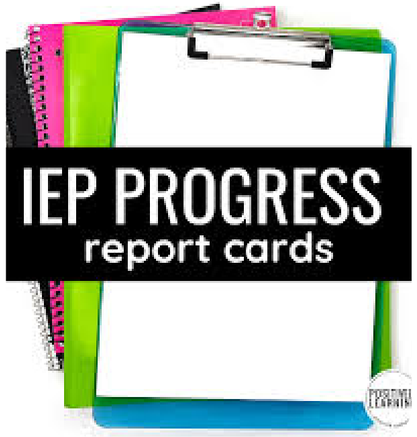
You, the parent	You know your child best.
General education teacher	How your child does in the regular classroom.
Special education teacher	How goals and supports are delivered.
Campus administrator	Can commit school resources to the plan.
Evaluation staff	Explain test results in plain language.
Others as needed	Therapists, counselors, and your child when appropriate.



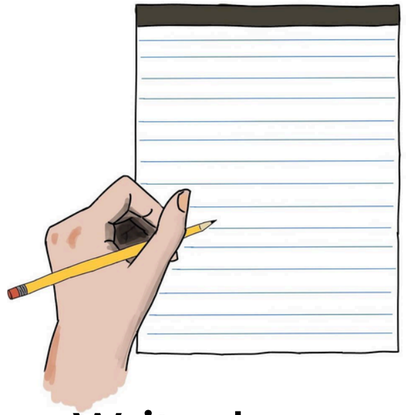
“Teamwork makes the dream work!”

Warm Up–Before the Meeting

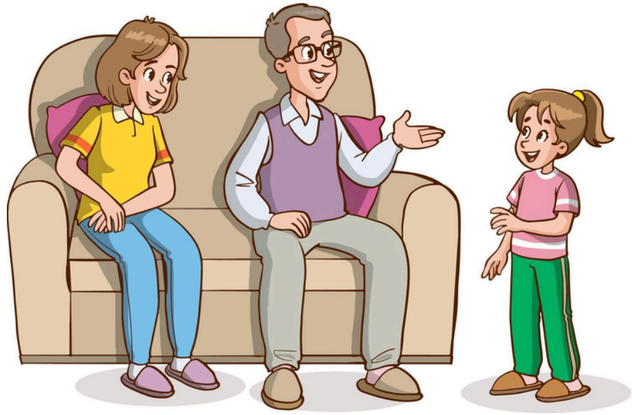
Tips for preparing prior to your child's ARD meeting



Review past IEP & Progress Reports



Write down your questions & concerns



Talk with your child about school



Bring outside reports (doctor, therapy, etc.)

"Parents and teachers are partners in the success of every child." –unknown

Game Time–During the Meeting

- Listen carefully and ask questions
- Take notes or request copies
- Pause the meeting if you need more time
- Remember: You are part of the team







“You are your child’s best advocate — your voice matters!”

Huddle Up–After the Meeting

- Review the IEP document at home
- Follow up with teachers on supports
- Stay in touch with you ARD team







"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

– Henry Ford

Special Education Terms & Acronyms Commonly Used in ARDs

- ARD – Admission, Review, and Dismissal committee/meeting (Texas term for IEP meeting).
- IEP – Individualized Education Program (the legal plan for services and goals).
- FIE – Full and Individual Evaluation (comprehensive evaluation used to determine eligibility).
- REED – Review of Existing Evaluation Data (process to decide if more testing is needed).
- PLAAFP – Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (summary of student's strengths, needs, and how the disability impacts learning).
- PWN – Prior Written Notice (document sent to parents explaining ARD decisions).
- TEA – Texas Education Agency (state education authority).

- LRE – Least Restrictive Environment (students should be educated with peers without disabilities as much as possible).
- FBA/BIP–Functional Behavior Assessment/ Behavior Intervention Plan: looks at why a behavior happens (FBA), then build a plan to support it (BIP)
- ESY– Extended School Year: Extending school through summer breaks if the student regresses in a critical skills and cant recoup in a reasonable time once school resumes.
- Accommodations– change HOW the students learns
- Modification– changes the WHAT the student learns
- Transition Plan– Planning for life after high school, education, work, independent living.



Every child deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them." – Rita Pierson

Know Your Rights



Ask anytime

You can request an ARD meeting whenever you have a concern.

Get notice

You'll receive written notice before the meeting and a copy of your rights.

Take your time

You don't have to sign at the meeting. Take it home to review.

Bring support

Invite a friend, family member, or consultant to sit with you.

Language help

Ask for an interpreter or translated documents.

It's OK to disagree

Ask to recess the meeting or talk through other options.

"You are your child's best advocate — your voice matters!"

Helpful Resources

Texas Education Agency Parent Resources:
https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/parent-and-family-resources

Partners Resource Network:
https://prntexas.org/

SPEDTex:
https://www.spedtex.org/#





"Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success." – Unknown



Thoughts to Remember

- Teamwork makes the dream work!
- You are your child's best advocate.
- Together, we can help your child succeed



Contact Info:

Wise County Shared Services

Serving Alvord, Boyd, Bridgeport, Chico, Paradise, and Slidell ISDs

1101 17th Street

Bridgeport, Tx 76426

940-683-8361



Information Stations



Visual Supports

to use at home

Accessing Docushare

your childs documents

Transition

Information

What's after High School?

Ask Questions



We are here to Help!