



The Individual Educational Plan Process (IEP)

What is an IEP?

An **Individual Educational Plan (IEP)** is a written statement of the educational program designed to meet a child's individual needs. Every child who receives special education services must have an IEP.

Special education is instruction specifically designed to meet the educational and developmental needs of children with disabilities, or those who are experiencing developmental delays.

That's why the process of developing the IEP document is of great interest and importance to educators, administrators, and families alike.

Who develops the IEP?

The IEP is developed by a team of individuals that includes key school staff and the child's parents. The team meets, reviews the evaluation/assessment information about the child, and determines that the child **needs** special education and related services. The team, including the parents, develops an individualized plan to address the child's **educational** needs that result from his or her disability or developmental delays. Parents may invite others, such as private therapists or early interventionists, who know the child and can provide important information to the IEP team.

Family members are equal participants of the IEP Team. Families have long-range vision and commitment to their child and hold important information about their child's strengths, learning styles, interests and needs.

What's involved in developing my child's IEP?



The entire IEP process is a way for you and the school to talk about your child's needs and to create a plan to meet those needs.

The IEP meeting is somewhat formal. By law, certain people must attend. All the people attending the meeting sign the IEP document to show who is there. Lots of papers are looked at and passed around. People will talk about your child, his or her needs and strengths, and what type of educational program would be appropriate. You should feel free to ask questions and offer suggestions.

During the meeting, each person takes a turn in the discussion. The discussion will include talking about:

- your child's strengths;
- your concerns for enhancing your child's education;
- the results of the most recent evaluation of your child; and
- your child's academic, developmental, and functional needs.

After educational goals are developed for your child, the IEP Team will consider the services needed to meet your child's needs and where your child will receive those services. Recommendations for placement will be offered. If you sign consent, services can begin as soon as your child is enrolled (during the school year).

During the meeting, if you are not clear on any part of the IEP process, ask the Staffing Specialist or other members of the IEP Team. After the meeting, you will be given contact numbers for school district staff who can answer your questions. You may also contact your Parent Liaison at any time for assistance.

Parent Liaison Information:

http://fdlrs.mysdhc.org/Parent_Services/Contacts