

IEP Overview:

A Parent / Guardian's Guide to Success

Video Transcript

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Host: "Hello and welcome! Today, we're diving into the world of Individualized Education Programs, or IEPs. Understanding IEPs is crucial for supporting students with special needs, and we're here to break down what they are, their purpose, and how they work to support your child."

Host: "An Individualized Education Program, or IEP, is a legally binding document that outlines the educational plan designed specifically for a child with a disability. It's developed under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA to ensure each child receives a Free Appropriate Public Education, or FAPE."

Host: "The main purpose of an IEP is to tailor education to meet the unique needs of the child, helping them progress in the general curriculum and achieve their goals in the educational setting. It serves as a roadmap for educators and parents or guardians to provide targeted support and interventions."

Host: "IEPs are written by a collaborative team known as the IEP Team. This team includes the child's parents or guardians, at least one general education teacher, one special education teacher, a person from the school who can assign resources, and other specialists as needed. Together, they bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to create an effective educational plan."

Host: "An IEP includes several critical components: the child's current performance levels, annual goals, specific special education and related services and or service minutes, accommodations or modifications needed, and a plan for measuring progress. It also outlines how the child will participate in general education classes and activities."

Host: "Parents and guardians play an integral role in the IEP process. They provide valuable insights into their child's background along with strengths and needs, collaborate with the team on setting goals, and advocate for necessary supports. Your participation ensures that the IEP aligns with your child's best interests."

Host: "Once the IEP is developed and consented to by parents or guardians, the school can start providing the services outlined. The IEP is reviewed and updated at least once a year, but

it can be revisited more often if needed. Parents and guardians can request a meeting with their student's team at any time."

Host: "If you have questions at any point in the process, don't hesitate to ask your child's IEP team members. They are there to help clarify and ensure you understand every aspect of the IEP. Keeping an open line of communication is vital to your child's success."

Host: "IEPs are a powerful tool in customizing education to fit the needs of each child, ensuring they have the support necessary to thrive. By actively participating in the IEP process and staying informed, you play a crucial role in your child's educational journey. Thank you for being such a dedicated advocate!"

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