

Initial IEP Meetings:

A Parent / Guardian's Guide to Success

Video Transcript

[Start of transcript]

Host: "Hello, everyone! We know you're here because you care deeply about your child's education and want the best for them. Today, we're going to simplify the initial Individualized Education Program, or IEP, meeting process."

Host: "An initial IEP meeting is the first step in crafting a customized educational plan for your child. It's important because it builds on the initial evaluation, which provides detailed information about your child's abilities and needs. Think of it this way: the evaluation gives us the data, and the IEP meeting is where we create a plan to support your child based on that information. Note that some teams combine the initial evaluation meeting with the initial IEP meeting. This video will focus on the initial IEP aspect of the meeting."

Host: "This meeting is important because it brings together a team of professionals dedicated to understanding your child's unique needs and strengths. It's your opportunity to be a key player in designing an educational path that supports your child."

Host: "At the initial IEP meeting, you'll meet with teachers, special education specialists, and administrators. Together, you'll discuss your child's current performance, set goals, and decide what special support they might need. Remember, this is a collaborative process, and your insights are invaluable."

Host: "The best way to prepare for these meetings is to reflect on information you want to share at the meeting and any questions you have. Information you want to share might include your child's strengths or any significant updates in your child's life since the initial evaluation meeting. Write down any questions or concerns you have. It's also helpful to talk with your child about their experiences and feelings regarding school. Note: the goal is to have your child attend the meeting once they are older and be part of the IEP team decision making process. Age 14 and up is recommended by MDE and they are considered a team member. This can provide valuable insights to share with the team."

Host: "Have questions? It's perfectly normal. You might be concerned or even feel overwhelmed, and that's okay. If you have questions you need answered prior to the meeting, contact your child's teacher or the school beforehand. Otherwise, make sure to write them down and bring them to the meeting. Even if questions arise after the meeting, reach out to your

child's team or teacher for clarification. The initial IEP will not go into effect until you provide written permission."

Host: "We understand this process can feel daunting, but remember, you're not alone. The entire IEP team is dedicated to supporting your child and working alongside you. Your involvement and voice are powerful tools in shaping your child's educational success. Thanks for watching!"

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