

Questions for Parents to Ask Each Step of the Way in the Special Education Process

Evaluation

- What tests and other evaluation materials are being considered for my child, and why?
- How will the information be used to plan my child's education?
- Is my child similar to the group on which the test was normed (the children who participated when the test was developed)?

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Development: Goals

- What are the disability-related challenges affecting my child's progress and participation in the general education curriculum?
- What are my child's current levels of academic and functional performance?
- What goals will help my child learn the skills or behaviors he or she needs to make meaningful educational progress?

IEP Development: Adaptations

- What supplementary aids and services does my child need to participate in the general education curriculum and the general education classroom?
- How are the accommodations or modifications on the current IEP working for my child?
- What accommodations or modifications does my child's most recent evaluation summary report recommend?

IEP Development: State Standards and Academic Success

- Is there a regular education teacher at today's IEP meeting who understands both my child's academic ability and state academic standards?
- What goals and or objectives on my child's IEP will address participation in the general education curriculum and in the regular education classroom?
- What can we do at home to help support my child's academic progress?

IEP Development: Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

- What is the placement in the LRE where my child's services will be provided?
- Does the LRE statement explain why and to what extent full participation in the regular education classroom is not possible?



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 What can be provided in the regular education classroom so that my child can remain in the regular education classroom?

IEP Development: Extended School Year (ESY)

- When will the IEP team determine eligibility for ESY?
- What data will be used in this determination?
- If my child needs ESY services, what options are available to meet my child's needs?

IEP Progress

- How will progress on my child's IEP goals be measured? How will that look on a progress report?
- Is the rate of progress shown on the progress report likely to lead to the accomplishment of the goals by the end of this IEP year?
- What will this IEP team do if I think my child is not making meaningful progress?

Transition

- What assessments were used to determine my child's plans and goals for further education, employment, and independent living after high school?
- What services, specific instruction, and classes will the school provide to help achieve the annual goals?
- What assistive technology might help my student achieve those goals?

Agreeing or Disagreeing with IEP

- Who do I contact after this meeting if I have questions?
- When can I expect to receive the proposed IEP?
- What are the steps I must take to agree or disagree with the IEP?

Exiting Special Education

- When will my student graduate or exit special education services?
- Does my student need transition services after the 12th grade?
- What might the consequences be if I revoke consent for special education services?