

What is an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a document designed to support students with disabilities in achieving academic success. An IEP is a personalized plan crafted to meet the unique educational needs of a student who has been identified as having a disability that requires special services.

To obtain an IEP in Florida, several steps must be followed. First, a student must undergo a comprehensive evaluation by the school district to determine if they are eligible for special services. If the evaluation results indicate that the student requires additional support, an IEP team meeting is scheduled. This team typically includes parents, teachers, school administrators, and other relevant professionals who collaborate to develop the IEP.

The primary purpose of an IEP is to outline the specific educational goals for the student, as well as the services and accommodations necessary to help them make progress in the general education curriculum. The IEP also specifies how the student's progress will be measured and reported to parents. Additionally, the document may include information on supplementary aids, related services, and any modifications to the curriculum that may be necessary.

Parents play a crucial role in the IEP process and should be actively involved in developing and reviewing their child's IEP. When participating in IEP meetings, parents should ask questions to ensure that they fully understand the goals, services, and accommodations outlined in the plan. They may inquire about the qualifica-

tions of the professionals working with their child, the frequency of progress monitoring, and the process for revising the IEP if needed.

Private schools in Florida are generally not required to provide or implement an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students with disabilities. Unlike public schools, private schools do not receive federal funding designated for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Parents of students with disabilities who attend private schools may also explore other options for support, such as seeking services through the public school district in which they reside. Public school districts are responsible for providing evaluations and, in some cases,

services to students with disabilities who attend private schools within their boundaries.

In conclusion, an IEP is a crucial tool in ensuring that students with disabilities receive the support they need to succeed academically. By understanding the process of obtaining an IEP in Florida, the purpose of the document, and the role of parents in the process, families can advocate effectively for their child's educational needs and help them reach their full potential in school.



The Role of an IEP Advocate

Developing an IEP is the first step in a larger process. Executing that plan in the working context of schools, administrators and teachers can be confusing, stressful and intimidating. Many parents turn to a special needs advocate to guide and represent them in seeking the best results for their child. An IEP advocate can help in several ways, including, providing information, guiding the process, communicating effectively and helping a parent to understand the full range of options available.

Before hiring an advocate, think about what is needed — what specific problems am I having with my child's educational experience? An advocate should be familiar with local policies on special education and preferably

have a good working relationship with key people in the local school districts (principals, teachers and special education coordinators). It's common to find an advocate through personal recommendations, ask other parents, a trusted teacher, friends or a specialist who works with your child. Interview several advocates before making a choice. During the interview, the goal is to learn about the advocate's training, experience, and qualifications and how their specific skills can solve the problems that your child is facing.

Once hired, the IEP team will monitor your child's progress to ensure they are progressing towards the determined objectives and provide IEP progress reports at the same frequency as regular report cards.



Transforming Challenges into Wings

Providing professional advocacy services since 2009 through compassionate and effective support that empowers parents to secure success for their child in school and in the community!

www.iepcoachingandadvocacy.com
iepcoachingandadvocacy@yahoo.com
 407-766-5942

85% of special education students can meet grade level expectations when properly supported.



Morgan Bevell | 801-609-8321 | info@bevellsadvocate.com



Adequate Support Unlocks Potential

Let us fight for the tools and services your child deserves