

# HOW TO GET YOUR CHILD AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)

## What is an Individualized Education Program?

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written legal document that maps out the program, supports, and services a child needs to succeed in school. Each program is created to meet the exact needs specific to the child. The program is covered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

## What are the benefits for IEPs?

The process begins with a full evaluation of your child's strengths and weaknesses. This allows you (the parent) and the school to work together in creating a program of services and supports specific to your child's needs. Your child will receive individualized instruction that is tailored to focus on specific skills. Specific needs of your child may lead to potential accommodations within their schooling.

## Who can get an IEP?

IEPs are part of public education. Eligible kids are those who attend both public and charter schools. To be considered, a child needs to have one or more of the thirteen disabilities listed in IDEA.



## What goes into an IEP?

- Student information
- Present level of educational performance
- Annual goals
- Progress reports
- Services
- Supplementary aid
- Participation
- Parent consent



## The IEP Process

To start the IEP process, file a formal request for a free evaluation by the school



Get a response from the school district whether or not your request has been approved



### OUTCOME 1

School will continue to implement targeted intervention through Response to Intervention (RTI).\*

They will:

- Inform you how long interventions will be provided
- Describe how they will measure the effectiveness of those interventions

\* *Response to Intervention (RTI) is a nationwide screening tool and intervention model to support student learning needs and promote academic success.*

### OUTCOME 2

School denies your request.

You will receive a

formal letter including:

- An explanation of their decision and the factors that influenced the denial
- Sources to better understand your rights under IDEA

### OUTCOME 3

School accepts your request and agrees to evaluate.

You must give written consent before they can evaluate your child. Typically, the school district must evaluate your child within 60 days of the given consent.



### Qualifying for an IEP after evaluation

To qualify for an IEP after evaluation, your child **must have one of the thirteen disabilities** listed under IDEA and **need special education services** in order to progress in school and benefit from the general education program.