



Parent Guide to the I.E.P.

THE INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (I.E.P.)

“All students require support from teachers, classmates, family, and friends in order to thrive and to gain full benefit from their school experience. Some students have special needs that require supports beyond those ordinarily received in the school setting.”

The Ministry of Education



What is an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.)?

An I.E.P. is a working document developed to focus on the strengths and needs of an individual exceptional student, the special education program and services that have been established to meet the student's needs and how the program and services will be delivered. It should also describe the student's progress as well.

The I.E.P. should highlight the following:

- a student's strengths and needs based on current assessment data
- medical/health information
- current and relative assessment data
- student's current level of achievement (grade or baseline) for each program area
- measurable goals and specific expectations for the student
- program modifications (changes to the grade-level expectations in the Ontario Curriculum) and/or Alternative Programming for students who are unable to access the Ontario Curriculum
- accommodations (supports and/or services that will help the student access the curriculum and demonstrate learning)
- special education services provided for the student
- assessment strategies for reviewing student progress and achievement
- I.E.P. updates showing dates, results and recommendations
- a transition Plan for students over the age of 14



The Five Phases of I.E.P. Development

- **Gathering information**
- **Setting the direction**
- **Developing a plan**
- **Carrying out the planned activities**
- **Reviewing and updating the I.E.P.**

“Students in schools across Ontario require consistent challenging programs that will capture their interest and prepare them for a lifetime of learning.”

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The Parents Role in the I.E.P

Parents play a critical role in the development of the I.E.P. Parents have insight of their child's personality, development and learning that are valuable for the school to know. It is important that there is open communication between the parent and school to ensure that the two have similar expectations with respect to the student's special education program and services.

Be sure to tell the teacher about your child's:

- likes and dislikes
- interest in extra-curricular activities
- talents and abilities
- family relationships and dynamics
- peer relationships and dynamics
- family routines and schedules

How are these helpful in developing the I.E.P.?

Likes, dislikes, talents and abilities, etc. all can have an important role in the development of strategies and assessment methods the teachers will use when planning instruction and activities for your child. The I.E.P. is designed to create an optimal learning program and environment for your child to achieve academic success at his/ her given level.

“An IEP is a written plan describing the special education program and/or services required by a particular student, based on a thorough assessment of the student's strengths and needs that affect the student's ability to learn and demonstrate learning.”



How can I help my child achieve his/her goals set out in the I.E.P.?

- take every opportunity available to communicate with your child's teacher
- take advantage of opportunities to work on goals when those opportunities arise
- share any significant personal/family events that are relative and may have an impact on student learning throughout the year
- the I.E.P. should reflect the discussions that you (the parent) and the teacher have had in developing the I.E.P. Read the I.E.P. carefully to be sure that your suggestions and/or ideas have been addressed
- at the end of each term the I.E.P. should be reviewed and changed as needed, goals that have not been achieved may need to be changed or replaced all together
- one last time, **COMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION, COMUNICATION** is the key to student success

For more information on the I.E.P. go to the Ministry of Education website at:

www.edu.gov.on.ca