

TOPIC: IEP– Individualized Education Plan

Overview

An IEP is a document uniquely designed for one specific student, with the intention of improving educational results for that child. Each IEP must be created in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and, in Colorado, the Exceptional Children’s Education Act (ECEA).

A student is eligible for special education services, IF the team determines that the student has a disability and in need of special education services.

For more information visit:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/iep_forms#eligibility

Resources

- ▶ [Individualized Education Program \(IEP\)](#)

Steps to the Initial IEP

- 1) **Referral** – a referral is turned in by the parent(s)/guardian(s)
- 2) **Review** – a multidisciplinary team will review existing data and body of evidence. Additional data may be obtained as needed.
- 3) **Request Consent** – written parental consent must be obtained prior to evaluation.
- 4) **Evaluation** – a variety of assessment tools are used to gather functional, developmental, and academic information.
- 5) **Documentation** – student’s strengths and skills as well as specific needs should be documented and supported by data.
- 6) **Eligibility** – the multidisciplinary team, including the parents/guardians, determine based on the body of evidence whether the student has a disability and requires special education services.
- 7) **Placement** – if the student is eligible for special education and related services, placement in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) will be determined by the IEP team at the time of the IEP meeting.
- 8) **Timeline** – By federal and state law, the IEP team has 60 days from the day of the referral to complete the evaluation and 90 days from the day of the referral to complete the IEP. This may be extended if the team, including the parents, agree that this is necessary.