



Getting Your Child Assessed for an IEP: A Guide for Idaho Parents



The IEP process can seem confusing and stressful for parents. Usually you or your child’s teacher has identified an area of concern that needs extra support at school. You may be wondering what the next steps are and if this is something the teacher can address in the classroom. This guide will walk through the key steps in the IEP process and answer common questions.

Encourage Open Communication

1. A concern is identified by the parent or teacher.
2. The school implements interventions through the Response to Intervention (RTI) process. This involves classroom accommodations or more targeted support from school staff.

3. If the interventions are not successful, a meeting is called to discuss testing the student for special education eligibility. This meeting typically includes the parent, teacher, school psychologist, related service providers like OT, speech, or PT, and the principal.
4. Evaluations and testing are completed and summarized in an Eligibility Report for the parents to review.
5. A meeting is held to determine if the student is eligible for special education services. If eligible, an IEP meeting will outline the services and supports needed.

The full process from concern to IEP can take 2–6 months depending on the school. Eligibility criteria are set by the State Board of Education. Most students must perform well below average for their age to qualify.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does IEP stand for? IEP stands for Individualized Education Program.
2. Who can have an IEP? Any student who qualifies can have an IEP.
3. Why are IEPs important? The IEP is a plan of action for the school and teachers to help the student succeed. It continues year-to-year and school-to-school. Having an IEP sets clear standards that transfer between teachers and grades. An IEP is a binding contract that schools must follow.
4. Can I request an IEP evaluation for my child? Yes, parents can request an evaluation to determine if their child qualifies for an IEP. The parent must consent to testing before it can begin.
5. What are the timelines? The evaluation and eligibility decision must be completed within 60 calendar days from when the school receives the parent's consent for testing. This does not include school breaks over 5 days long.
6. The IEP must be implemented within 30 calendar days after the student is found eligible.
7. How often are IEPs reviewed? Re-evaluations are completed every 3 years. However, the IEP is reviewed annually. Parents can request an IEP meeting at any time if they have concerns.
8. We hope this provides a helpful overview of the IEP process for parents in Idaho. Let me know if you would like me to expand or clarify any part of the guide. I'm happy to revise it based on your feedback.