



Plumas Rural Services

Serving people, Strengthening families, Building communities

EmpowerSPED:

Building Blocks of
Special Education

DISCLAIMER

Disclaimer: This training is intended solely for educational purposes and is not intended as legal advice. Participants are encouraged to seek professional legal counsel for any specific questions or concerns regarding IEPs, 504 Plans, and applicable laws. The information provided in this workshop is based on general principles and practices and may not reflect the most current legal standards or regulations



FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER

The Family Empowerment Center (FEC) is a community-based service provided by Plumas Rural Services, a non-profit agency.

-FEC offers FREE services to families of children with disabilities. Services are supported through funding from the California Department of Education. Services can be stand-alone or coordinated with Far Northern Regional Center, Alta Regional Center Services, school districts, and other community service providers.

- FEC services address preschool and school concerns and transitioning from school to adulthood.

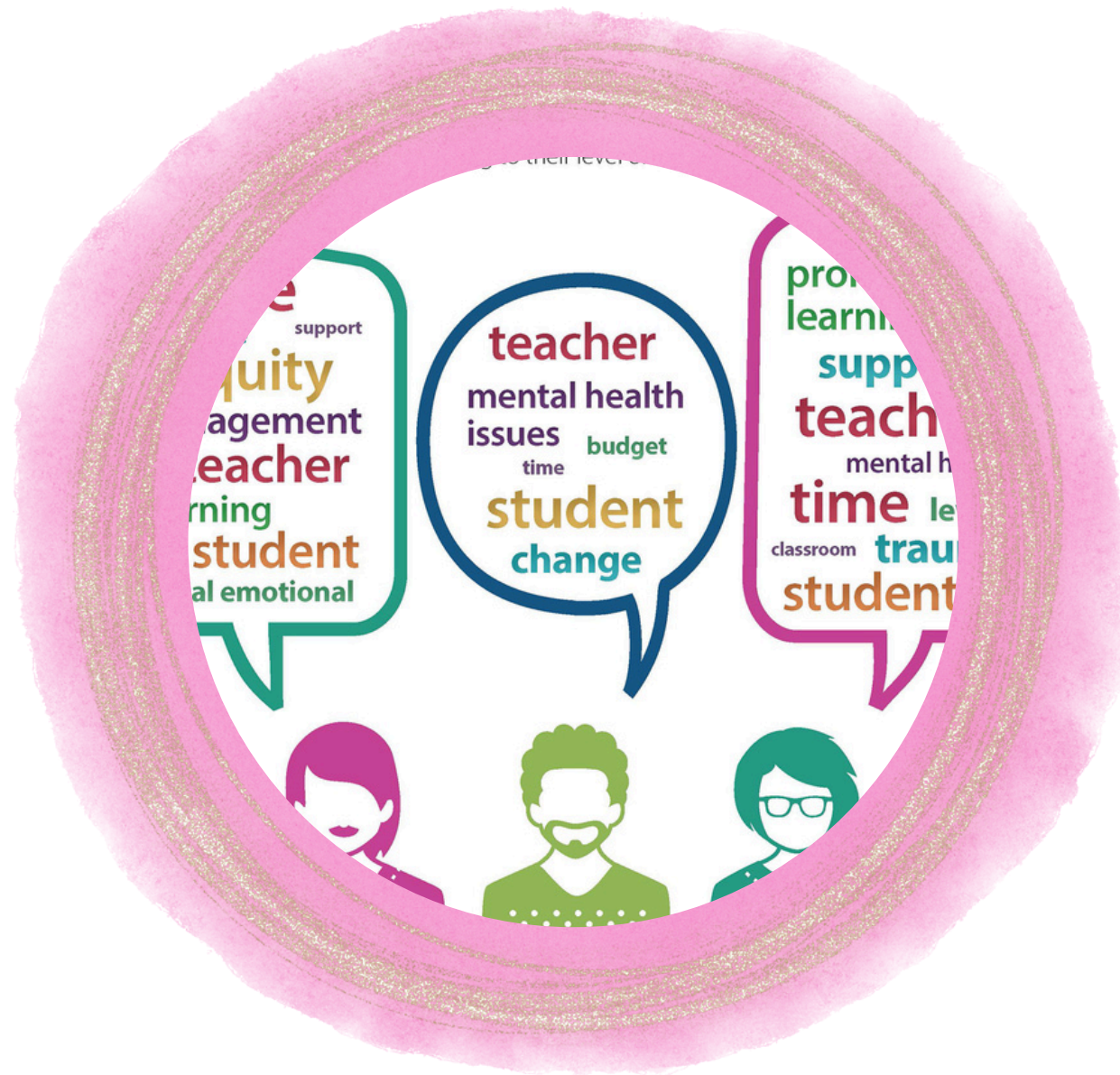
-This program also works to connect parents and families facing similar challenges to promote social interaction, engagement, and support.

-We support families who have diagnosis for their children as well as families who suspect a disability.

Disabilities could be physical, developmental, emotional, learning and behavioral.

-We serve children ages 3-22 in Lassen, Modoc, Plumas and Sierra Counties.

OUTCOMES



- **The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
- **What is an IEP**
- **Procedural Safeguard**
- **Advocacy Strategies**

IDEA

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law in the United States that ensures children with disabilities have the right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) tailored to their individual needs. Here's a breakdown in simple terms:



FAPE

Free and appropriate public education: Schools must provide an education that is free of charge and meets the unique needs of each child with a disability. This means that the education should be suitable for the child's abilities and challenges.

PARENT RIGHTS

Rights for Parents: Parents have rights under IDEA, including the right to be involved in the decision-making process regarding their child's education. They can participate in meetings, review educational records, and request assessments to determine their child's needs.

IEP

Individualized Education Program (IEP): Under IDEA, each eligible child with a disability must have an IEP. This is a written plan that outlines the specific educational goals for the child, the services they will receive, and how progress will be measured. The IEP is developed by a team that includes teachers, specialists, and the child's parents.

INCLUSION

IDEA emphasizes that children with disabilities should be educated alongside their peers without disabilities, to the maximum extent appropriate. This means that schools should try to include these children in regular classrooms whenever possible while providing any necessary support.

IDEA

EVALUATION AND ELIGIBILITY:

Schools must evaluate children suspected of having a disability to determine if they qualify for services under IDEA. This evaluation process must be thorough and conducted in a timely manner.

RELATED SERVICES

In addition to educational instruction, IDEA requires that schools provide any necessary related services that a child may need to benefit from their education. This can include things like speech therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, or transportation.



WRAPPING UP IDEA

TRANSITION PLANNING:

For older students, IDEA requires that transition planning be included in the IEP. This helps prepare students for life after high school, including further education, employment, and independent living.

IN SUMMARY:

IDEA is a law that helps ensure that children with disabilities receive the education and support they need to succeed in school and beyond. It emphasizes individualized planning, parental involvement, and inclusion in regular classrooms.

PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION:

IDEA protects children with disabilities from discrimination in education. Schools can't deny them access to education or services based on their disabilities.



QUESTIONS?



PROCEDURAL SAFEGAURDS

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS NOTICE

The school must provide you with a written explanation of your rights under both IDEA and your state's laws. You'll get this as a printed procedural safeguards notice. You can also ask for a verbal explanation.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

You have a legal right to participate in meetings about your child's education, including IEP meetings. You can even call an IEP team meeting at any time. Learn more about your role on the IEP team.

ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

You have the right to see and get an explanation of your child's school records. You can also ask for corrections. These rights are protected by IDEA and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

The school must protect your child's confidentiality. This includes personal information, such as your child's name, address, social security number and other personal details. There are some exceptions, though. FERPA outlines these.

PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE

The school must give you written notice before it changes your child's special education experience. This includes when the school wants to add or deny services. It must tell you what it proposes to do and why. Get more details on how prior written notice works.

UNDERSTANDABLE LANGUAGE

When the school provides written notice, it must use language that's understandable to the general public. The notice must also be in your native language (this includes Braille).

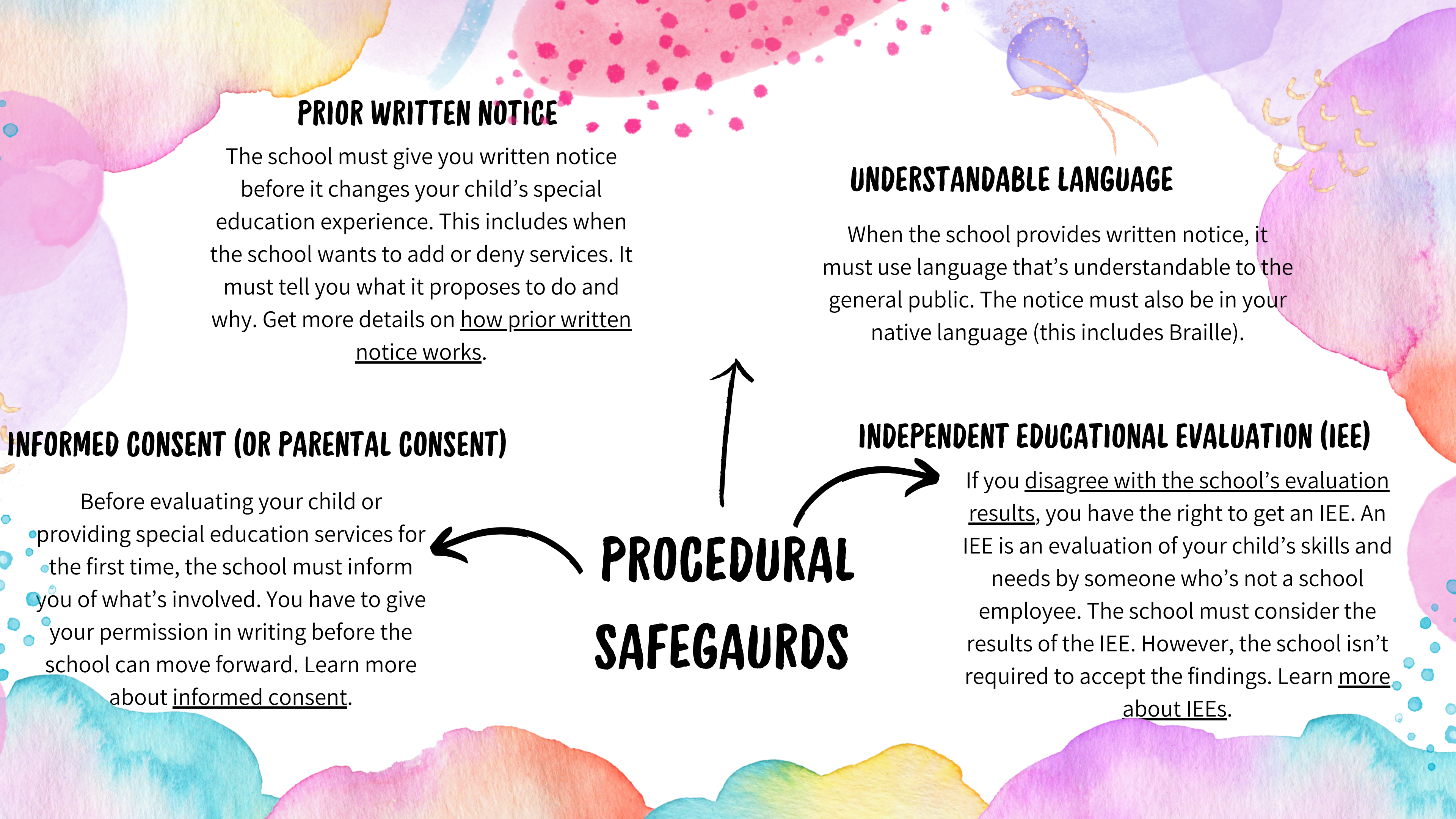
INFORMED CONSENT (OR PARENTAL CONSENT)

Before evaluating your child or providing special education services for the first time, the school must inform you of what's involved. You have to give your permission in writing before the school can move forward. Learn more about informed consent.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION (IEE)

If you disagree with the school's evaluation results, you have the right to get an IEE. An IEE is an evaluation of your child's skills and needs by someone who's not a school employee. The school must consider the results of the IEE. However, the school isn't required to accept the findings. Learn more about IEEs.

PROCEDURAL SAFEGAURDS



WRAPPING UP PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

"Stay put" rights

Do you disagree with a proposed change to your child's IEP services or placement? The "stay put" protection keeps your child's current IEP in place while you and the school work things out. But you have to act quickly. Read more about ["stay put" rights](#).

Dispute resolution options

You have the right to disagree with the school about what's best for your child.

If you have a disagreement, IDEA provides you several dispute resolution options.



IEP- BINGO

GAME

WHAT IS AN IEP



An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written plan developed for students with disabilities who qualify for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The IEP outlines the educational goals, the services and supports the student will receive, and how progress will be measured. Here's a breakdown of what an IEP involves and how parents can participate:

PRESENT LEVELS

Student's Present Level of Performance: This section describes how the student is currently doing in school, including strengths, weaknesses, and specific academic and functional skills.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVE

The IEP sets measurable annual goals for the student. These goals are tailored to the student's specific needs and should be achievable within a year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES:

The plan outlines the specific special education services and supports the student will receive, such as specialized instruction, accommodations, or related services like speech therapy

IEP

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Accommodations: The IEP specifies any modifications or accommodations that will be made to help the student access the curriculum. This may include extended test time, changes in how assignments are presented, or seating arrangements.

PROGRESS MONITORING:

The IEP includes how the school will measure the student's progress toward the goals and how often parents will be updated on that progress.

TRANSITION SERVICES:

For older students (typically starting at age 14-16), the IEP must include a plan for transitioning to post-school activities, such as further education, vocational training, or employment

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

- **Know Your Rights:** Familiarize yourself with education laws and your child's rights.

- **Build Relationships:** Engage with teachers, administrators, and other parents.

- **Effective Communication:** Tips for expressing concerns and advocating for your child.

- **Get Involved:** Join parent-teacher associations (PTAs), attend school board meetings, and participate in the Community Advisory Committees (CAC) other community forums.





WRAP IT UP-

GAME

THANK YOU

