

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Basics

Alpha Family Empowerment Center



THE IEP & ITS PURPOSE

An individualized education plan (IEP) involves school personnel and parents in determining required special education and related services. The IEP serves as a written contract that requires school district to provide a FAPE, Free and Appropriate Public Education.

- The IEP is reviewed periodically.
- The IEP puts the stress on individualized. An IEP is written specifically for a child's needs.
- The IEP is considered a “working document” and can be altered at any time with the approval by the members of the child's IEP team.





RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN



Birth to 3: TCRC Early Start
Evaluation for eligibility
45 days timeline
Anyone can refer

Age 3-5: Contact school district
Preschool services
Concerns about child's development?

Age 5-22: Talk with teacher/school team
Discuss concerns
Propose School Success Team meeting
Develop strategies for intervention
Request formal assessment in writing

TO QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION & RELATED SERVICES

01

A student must have a disabling condition according to one of the eligibility categories.

02

The disability must impact their ability to access the general education curriculum.

03

The student must be in need of special education related services.



ELIGIBILITY CATEGORIES

Developmental Delay (DD)
Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)
Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
Visual Impairment (VI)
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
Established Medical Condition (EMC)
Emotional Disability (ED)

Orthopedic Impairment (OI)
Speech Language Impairment (SLI)
Autism (AUT)
Intellectual Disability (ID)
Other Health Impairment (OHI)
Multiple Disabilities (MD)

ELIGIBILITY VS. DISABILITY



DISABILITY

A physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses, or activities. A disability is a condition or function judged to be significantly impaired relative to the usual standard of an individual or group.



ELIGIBILITY

The impairment (disability) adversely affects the student's educational performance and requires special education to meet the student's needs

IMPACT VS. NO IMPACT



IMPACT

The impairment (disability) adversely affects the student's educational performance and requires special education to meet the student's needs.



NO IMPACT

If it is determined that the student has a disability, but does not require or no longer requires special education, the student is not eligible for special education services and supports.



PRINCIPLES OF IDEA

Free: No cost to parent or family

Appropriate: Able to meet unique needs

Public: Provided by school system

Education: Every eligible child



What Is An IEP?

An IEP **CAN** have..

1. Strengths
2. Concerns
3. Evaluation Review
4. Academic Needs
5. Functional Needs
6. Services
7. Goals
 - a. Academic/Functional
 - b. Social
Emotional/Behavior
 - c. Communication
 - d. Gross and fine motor
 - e. Vocational
 - f. Adaptive/daily living
 - g. Health



GOALS, SERVICES, PLACEMENT

Where will services and supports be provided?

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) must be implemented under IDEA.

Options include...

- General Education Classroom
- Special Day Class
- Special School
- Hospital, Home
- Other setting

RELATED SERVICES



1. Never read or looked at an IEP
2. Have looked at one but don't understand much of what it says
3. Have had good amount of knowledge of an IEP
4. I'm a Jedi-Master when it comes to IEP's

(Hold up your fingers)

How comfortable or familiar are you at reading and understanding an IEP?



Thank you for joining us.
Questions?



805-452-8789



AlphaLifespan.org



FEC@alphasb.org

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IEP BASICS

September 8, 2026
@ 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Join Alpha's FEC team as we review the basic aspects of the IEP process and answer any questions you may have!

 Join us via zoom
Meeting Identification:
832 7768 9421
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83277689421>

For more information:
805-452-8789
fec@alphasb.org



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PARENTS' RIGHTS

 September 22, 2026
 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Come join us as we go through the procedural safeguards and discuss your rights as a parent during the IEP process.

Join us via zoom:
Meeting Identification:
832 7768 9421
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83277689421>

For more information: | 805-452-8789



Upcoming Events

alpha Family Empowerment CENTER

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER TRAININGS 2026-2027

IEP Basics September 2026	Intro to ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) February 2027
Parents' Rights September 2026	Transition IEP Meetings February 2027
Know your IEP Document October 2026	Asking the Right Questions March 2027
Communication Tips and Tools October 2026	504 Basics April 2027
Turning Three November 2026	Transition to Adulthood April 2027
Basics of Behaviors: Home and school January 2027	Getting Organized May 2027

INDIVIDUAL FLYERS TO FOLLOW
Have any questions? Please, give us a call. (805) 452-8789

alpha CENTRO de Empoderamiento Familiar

TALLERES DEL CENTRO DE EMPODERAMIENTO FAMILIAR PARA EL AÑO ESCOLAR 2026-2027

Conceptos Básicos del IEP Septiembre 2026	Introducción a la resolución alternativa de disputas (ADR) Febrero 2027
Derechos de los Padres Septiembre 2026	Reuniones de IEP de transición Febrero 2027
Conozca su documento de IEP Octubre 2026	Hacer las Preguntas Correctas Marzo 2027
Herramientas de Comunicación Octubre 2026	Conceptos básicos del 504 Abril 2027
Cumpliendo Tres Noviembre 2026	Transición a la Edad Adulta Abril 2027
Conceptos Básicos de Comportamientos: casa y escuela Enero 2027	Organizarse Mayo 2027

VOLANTES INDIVIDUALES PARA CADA EVENTO A SEGUIR
¿Alguna pregunta? Por favor, llámenos. (805) 452-8789

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See our upcoming events here!
¡Vea nuestros próximos eventos aquí!

Upcoming Events



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Próximos Eventos



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