



Teens on IEPs: Making My “Transition” Services Work for Me

Tools for School - Tip Sheet 4

TRANSITIONS RTC

October 2011

What is an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and “Transition” Services?

An IEP is an individual education plan written in public school for children ages 3 to 21 that by law, describes the special education services and goals for a student with an identified disability. Special ed services involve different techniques that help the student in a way that typical instruction cannot. Transition services are plans within the IEP that address your specific needs in relation to life after high school.



*What Are My
School's
Responsibilities?*

- Determine eligibility for special ed services (If you think you should be getting these services and aren't, ask for help)*
- To conduct an annual review of my IEP to identify my strengths, interests and needs (You can request meeting more often to review goals)
- Summarize my academic and functional levels
- Deliver accommodations decided by my IEP team
- At age 16, discuss with me my plans for after high school including “transition” services
- My attendance at IEP meetings on “transition” services or goals

*What Should
My IEP
“Transition”
Services
Include?*

- Identification of your interests and ideas for work or school after high school
- Measurable goals related to education, training, jobs and independent living
- Services or skills needed to reach goals
- Referrals or activities to link me up to adult services to meet my goals; i.e., vocational programs, supported employment or education and adult mental health services
- Depending on your state, a transition planning form specifically focused on transition services (Check your state laws for more information)

*For more information please visit: <http://ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/iepguide/index.html#process> & <http://fcsn.org/parentguide/pguide1.html>

If you would like information on “accommodations for college students” please see our Transitions RTC tip sheet: <http://labs.umassmed.edu/transitionsRTC/Resources/publications/Accomodationstipsheet2.pdf>

What Are My Rights on an IEP?

- To ask as many questions as I would like during the IEP meeting
- To personally consent to my IEP; some states require age 14, others 16; check with your school (younger teens need parent/guardian signatures on an IEP)
- When I or my parent sign off or consent to the IEP, services and goals stated will begin
- To request/refuse certain services on my IEP or request goals to be added/changed
- To ask for a team meeting if I want to make changes after the IEP is signed
- To reject any/all of my IEP (The school contacts the Bureau of Special Education Appeals)
- To withdraw from my IEP with documentation in two ways: 1) If I demonstrate during a reevaluation, that the services are no longer needed, or 2) My parent elects to take me out of the special ed program
- Being informed of my rights and responsibilities upon reaching age 18, such as viewing my records
- I must be invited to the IEP meeting starting at age 14; 16 by federal law (I have the right to attend my annual IEP meeting at any age, but some parents do not want their young children present)

Who Can Attend My IEP Meeting?

- Special ed coordinator, teacher/s, parent/s or guardian, counselor, special ed advocate, friends, relatives, or community members (A Special Education Advocate is a representative that informs you of your educational rights and assists in negotiating and resolving disputes with the school district, also, there may be a cost involved in getting a Special Education Advocate) For information please visit: <http://www.ed-center.com/specialeducationadvocate>
- Other people or agencies that have special expertise or knowledge about me

Sources

U.S. Department of Education: <http://ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/iepguide/index.html#process>
eHow family: http://www.ehow.com/way_5530520_can-withdraw-child-iep-program.html
UnderstandingSpecialEducation.com: <http://www.understandingspecialeducation.com/IEP-meeting.html>
LD.Org National Center for Learning Disabilities:
<http://www.ncl.org/college-aamp-work/post-high-school-options/transitioning-to-college/preparing-for-college>
Federation for Children With Special Needs: <http://fcsn.org/peer/ess/accomodationsfs.html>
Federation for Children With Special Needs: http://fcsn.org/pti/topics/iep/tools/iep_faq.pdf
Youth Empowerment Alliance: <http://www.md-council.org/publications/PDF/YEAMarch08.pdf>
National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities: <http://nichcy.org/schoolage/iep/team>
State of Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/Families/Teens/default.aspx>
Iowa Department of Education: http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1589&Itemid=2369



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