

Individual Education Program (IEP)

The purpose of an Individual Education Program (I.E.P.) is to provide effective teaching and evidence-based interventions and strategies specific to identified, individual student learning strengths and needs for students who qualify for special education services. IEPs promote student growth and achievement and access to the general curriculum. Additionally, for students age 14 or above, post school goals are identified and addressed in the IEP. A key element of the IEP is continual monitoring and reporting of progress toward individual student goals and benchmarks. This facilitates better communication and collaboration among all educators working with your son or daughter and keeps parents informed of progress on an on-going basis.

A “staffing team” is responsible for collaboratively developing IEPs. Your student’s staffing team will include school professionals who are best qualified to evaluate, plan and program for your student’s special needs. Parents and students are also valued members of the staffing team. As a participating member of your son or daughter’s staffing team, you will collaborate with special education providers and general education teachers to develop an IEP that will serve as an educational planning tool.

The staffing team will:

- Identify strengths and needs based on assessment data that relate to your student’s ability to **Access** the general curriculum and meet post school goals.
- Develop **Goals** based on specific skills that your student needs to learn and for each goal.
- Establish **Benchmarks** as achievement targets for each reporting period. The staffing team will identify dates that **Progress Reports** will be sent home to parents.
- Determine appropriate teaching **Interventions and Strategies** to support your student’s achievement toward identified goals and benchmarks.
- Recommend specific **Modifications and Accommodations** to support your student’s participation and achievement in the general education setting.
- Consider assistive technology options and extended school year (ESY) eligibility.
- Develop any **Additional Plans** necessary to meet the unique needs of your student. These plans may include a transportation plan, health plan, behavior plan, literacy modality plan, and/or communication plan.

CDE Information and Resources

[Colorado Rules for the Exceptional Children’s Education Act \(ECEA\)](#)

Additional Information and Resources

[Learning Disabilities Association of America](#)

Offers parents guidance to facilitate better understanding of the IEP Process