

Understanding My IEP Meeting

Getting ready for an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting is very important. This is a meeting where I can talk about my goals for learning, my future, and what supports I need to learn new skills.

In my IEP, there will be a team of people, including my teachers, caregivers, and maybe even some other professionals who will help me learn. We will work together to create a plan that outlines what I need to learn and what supports I need to succeed.

Who will be there?

The meeting participants will include my teachers, my caregivers, and other professionals like therapists, people from the county board of developmental disabilities and someone from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. All the people at this meeting are there to help me reach my goals.

What is a Student Profile?

During the meeting, we will look at my profile. This is a summary of who I am, including my preferences, interests, needs, and strengths (PINS). It helps everyone understand what I like and what I need to be successful in school.

Talking about Future Planning

We will also discuss future planning. This is a chance for me to share what I want to do when I graduate high school. I can talk about my dreams for school, work, and life. It is important to think about my goals for post-secondary education, like college, trade school, or vocational training. It is also important to think about the skills I need to have to live independently like budgeting, cooking, and advocating for myself.

Transition Planning

We will develop a transition plan. This plan will help me figure out what I will do after I graduate high school. This plan will outline my goals for education, employment, and independent living. With every goal, we will come up with different activities that will help me get closer to each of these goals and who will help me complete these activities.

Understanding My Present Level of Performance

During the meeting, we will discuss my present level of performance. This means talking about how well I am doing in school right now and what areas I may need to focus on to improve to develop new skills. I can share what I have been working on and what supports I might need to improve in this area.

Setting Annual Goals

We will set annual goals for the year. These are the academic areas my team wants me to get better at. My goals will build off what I learned last year and focus on what I need to do this year. Each goal will help me get closer to the big goals I have for after I graduate.

Accommodations and Modifications

We will discuss my accommodations, which are special requests to make it easier for me to learn, like having extra time on tests or someone to read aloud to me. There might also be modifications, which are changes to what I learn to help me succeed. It is important that I learn what accommodations and modifications help me be my best. These are things I can also ask for when I am at work, school, at home, and while in the community.

There are many more accommodations and modifications that might help me learn and be successful. It will be important to keep a list handy, so I know what to ask for in different settings.

Related Services

The professionals in the meeting may also talk about related services. These are the staff members in the school who help me achieve my goals, like speech therapists and behavior support professionals. These professionals may also be in the meeting and talk about what they plan to do to help me reach my goals.

I Feel Empowered

I feel empowered to share my thoughts and feelings during the meeting. If I need help, I can ask someone to explain things to me. It's great that I have a voice in my education, and I know that everyone is there to support me and help me achieve my goals!

If I prepare for my IEP meeting, I can be an active participant. I will work on sharing my ideas and goals, and I know that my team is here to help me succeed.