



Preparing for your Student's IEP

Thoughts from the Educator's Perspective

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IEP Team Process

- Teamwork takes two-way communication
- All good people, with good intentions who may have differing opinions
- Not everyone can know everything
- Meeting formats are a style issue
 - Introductions and roles
 - Seating design
 - Purpose of meeting
- Feel comfortable to ASK



IEPs Calculated for Educational Benefit

- Consider the long-range outcomes
- Increased rigor and standards
- Assessment of status on Performance Standards - required
- Choose your priorities carefully



Elements of an IEP

- Start with a clear statement of needs
- Clear, specific, and measurable goals and objectives
- Determine what is required to access general curriculum
 - Supports
 - Services
 - Programs
 - Location



Program and Service Options

- It's all in a name
 - Categorical
 - Basic Classroom
 - Self-contained
 - Cross-categorical
 - Resource Room
- What/How much/When/ Where/Who
- Special Education is a SERVICE not a PLACE



When Conversations are not Productive

It is Okay to.....

- Stop and reconvene the meeting
- Have time-out, sidebar discussions
- Request additional Team members
- Request a more superior administrator
- Request an IEP Facilitator
- Obtain and Advocate
- Request Formal mediation



Some Things to Remember

- Educators do not look for ways to harm children
- You are your child's best advocate
- Do not make assumptions-ask
- Home – School relationships are long term
- Don't get hung up on what things are called



Who can help?

Local Education Agency: LEA: Resident District

- Teacher-Principal-Director-Superintendent

○ ISD: Oakland Schools

- Compliance staff :consultants-Executive Director

○ Michigan Department of Education

- Compliance – Supervisor- Director

○ U.S. Office of Special Education Programs

○ U.S. Office of Civil Rights



What is the ISD?

- Intermediate School District
 - Service agency
 - Fiduciary
 - IDEA
 - PA 18 (county millage)
 - Compliance arm of MDE
 - Performance arm of MDE
 - Data submission
 - State Performance Plan indicators
 - Student Service Continuum



SE Department Purpose

- **ASSURE** – (make sure or certain, declare earnestly, convince, promise, give confidence)

compliance with regulations,
achievement of state performance
targets, and student success



SE Department Purpose

- **Ensure**- (secure, make safe from harm, bring surely, make certain)

compliance with regulations, achievement of state performance targets, students success, program options for students, access to sufficient funding, assessment supports, service provision, inclusion in decision making



SE Department Purpose

- **Insure**-(make secure, guarantee against risk of loss or harm, secure indemnity in case of loss or damage)

compliance with regulations, *unbiased assessment, program and service expertise, inclusion in decision making* =

student success