



IEP Vocabulary Cheat Sheet

Common IEP terms explained in simple, parent-friendly language, without the educational jargon.

Present Levels of Performance:

A section on the IEP, usually the longest, that provides a clear picture of how your child is doing right now academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and functionally from the view of the school teachers and staff that support your child. It highlights your child's current academic levels, strengths, current needs, and how their disability may affect their learning and participation in school.

Accommodation:

A support that changes how your child learns or shows what they know without changing what they are expected to learn. Examples include extra time, directions read aloud, movement breaks, or preferential seating.

Modification:

A change to what your child is expected to learn or complete. Modifications may adjust the difficulty, amount, or grade level of the work so it better matches your child's learning needs. Examples include shortening assignments, changing the reading level of a text, and alternative projects.

Related Services

Additional services that help your child access learning and benefit from their education. These may include speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, or other specialized support.





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Annual Goal:

A specific and measurable skill the IEP team expects your child to work toward during the school year. Each goal should be based on your child's individual needs and provide a clear way to measure growth.

SDI (Specially Designed Instruction):

Teaching that is intentionally adapted to meet your child's unique learning needs. This may include different teaching strategies, materials, pacing, or ways for your child to practice and demonstrate a skill.

LRE (Least Restrictive Environment):

The school setting where your child can learn successfully while having meaningful opportunities to learn and participate with peers without disabilities, with the appropriate supports in place.

Progress Monitoring:

The ongoing process of collecting and reviewing information to see how your child is progressing toward their IEP goals. It helps the team understand what is working and whether any supports or teaching strategies need to be adjusted.

