

An Introduction To Special Education

Produced by WSPEI

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Department of Public Instruction



Special Education:

Meets the unique needs of a child with a disability

Adapting what a child learns and how he or she learns it



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Federal Law



FAPE

Free and Appropriate Public Education




Special Education

- provided at no cost to families
- individualized to the child's unique needs





 **Special Education is not just a curriculum, but a process... that makes it individualized for each child.**



Special Education Process

 Referral

 Evaluation

 Individual Education Program

 Placement

 Annual Review



Special Education Process

Referral

parents or guardians

medical professionals

teachers

school district

anyone who cares about the child



Special Education Process

A referral letter should:

- Tell the date
- Say this is a referral for special education
- Tell the child's first and last name
- Date of birth and age
- Tell why you think the child might need special education



Special Education Process

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Special Education Process

Evaluation

existing information
information from you
testing
observation

You must be notified about tests in writing
Your Permission must be given



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Special Education Process

Individualized Education Program:

- discuss evaluation
- make recommendations

Your attendance is crucial!

You have the right to ask that the meeting be held at a time when you are able to attend.



Special Education Process

Individualized Education Program

IEP Team Meeting Notes

Evaluation report

Written plan

Take time to read reports



You have the right to set up
another meeting when
you are ready to discuss
your child's IEP.



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Special Education Process

Placement:

- based on IEP and curriculum needs
- meets Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) requirement
- strives for ideal school, closest to home



You have the right to give
consent before your child's
first placement.
After the IEP Meeting: sign
consent form (permission)



All staff must follow the IEP.

Receive reports from school

Communicate often

Share concerns



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To ensure your child
receives the best
combination of services
to achieve their
personal best.



**Re-evaluation every three
years or sooner if appropriate**



Timeline For Evaluation and Placement

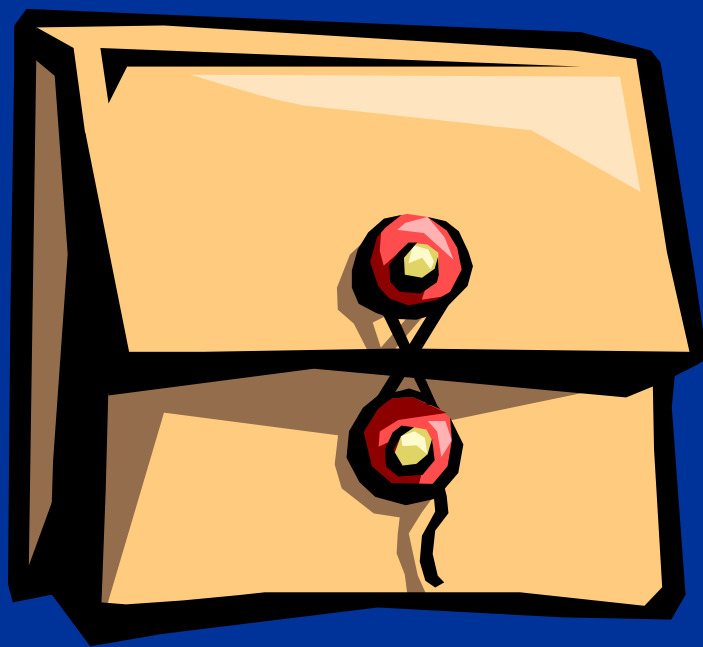
15 days- to request consent

60 days- to complete evaluation
and write IEP

30 days- to offer placement



My Special Education Information File



Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team

A team of concerned people:

You

Your child

Local Education Agency member (LEA)

Principal or school psychologist

Child's teacher

Special education teacher

Others



Purpose of IEP Team:

Evaluate for special education

Determine needs

Recommend placement

Review the plan annually



Extended School Year Services (ESY)

This is not summer school

Has a more flexible and varied schedule

Provides services that are needed so that the child does not lose skills



Resolving Differences:

Informal discussion

Request a team meeting

Facilitated IEP Team Meeting

Mediation

Due process

Complaint to DPI



You Are an Equal Partner



Know Your Rights!

For more information about
this video or the booklet,

***“An Introduction To
Special Education”***

contact WSPEI at

1-877-844-4925

or WI FACETS at

877-374-4677

