

Individualized education program

[Education](#)



Over the past ten years I have seen several IEPs and have attended a handful of IEP meetings. My knowledge of an IEP and what it consists of has been very basic. Still I had many questions in the back of my head and I always wanted to fully understand everything there is to know about an IEP. Before I can look into what an IEP consists of, first I must answer the question of its background, what is it and, when was it introduced to the school systems.

Children with special needs were not allowed in public schools. Most children were either institutionalized or simply kept at home. If and when parents decided to put their child in an institution, little to no education would be provided to these children with needs. I am fortunate to know an individual who witnessed how things were in these types of institutions and later on I would have the pleasure of working with him for his last years before he retired from CPS. The lives of many exceptional children changed when the IDEA, which stands for Individuals with disabilities Act, was established in 1975.

The IDEA special education law was accepted in 1975. This gave children with special needs the right to have public education without the parents having to pay. A school provides what the child needs educationally and other services in order for the child to be successful in their life. Also, this gives parents a voice to speak up for their child's education and also gives protection. Parents are included in the process of deciding what is best for their child when it comes to their education needs.

It also gives early intervention services as young 3 years old. In order for a child to be under the IDEA law they must be identified with one of the thirteen accepted disabilities. After the child gets approved and is evaluated with parent consent, a school and parent can move forward with writing up an IEP followed by an IEP meeting.