

# Creating My Child's Individualized Education Program



After your child is determined to be eligible for special education, the school will make a plan with you to ensure your child has the instructional supports and accommodations they need to receive an appropriate education. This plan is called an Individualized Education Program, or IEP.

## How is my child's IEP developed?

- Your child's school will invite you to participate in an IEP meeting to develop the plan each year. Others on the team may include your child's teachers, a representative from the school district, a school psychologist, and other specialists.
- **Your child is encouraged to attend and even lead IEP meetings.** This is especially important if your child is older and in high school.
- **You may invite anyone who has knowledge or expertise about your child to your child's IEP meeting, including your case manager.**
- **The school must provide an interpreter in your native language for this meeting.**

## What happens after the IEP meeting?

Once the team develops an IEP, your child's school must follow the IEP by providing your child with the services and supports described within it. The IEP team will meet at least once every year to review and update the IEP. If you want to meet between regular annual meetings, you can submit a written request to the school for an IEP meeting at any time. The school must schedule the meeting within 45 school days of your request.



If your child does not qualify for an IEP, they may be able to receive a **504 Plan**. Learn more **about 504 Plans** in our handout on *What If My Child Is Not Eligible for Special Education?*