### Individualized Education

An Overview of the Special Education Process



A joint training developed by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Parents' Place of Maryland

## What you will learn

- Special Education is individualized to meet the unique needs of each student
- Parent rights in the Special Education process
- Resources



# How did I get here?

#### PERHAPS...

- a preschool teacher noticed that your child has a speech delay
- your child is consistently listed as being below grade level in reading and/or math
- your doctor noticed a developmental delay
- you noticed your child struggling with homework
- your child was born with a disability or special healthcare need
- your child has challenging behaviors that impact learning
- your child is transitioning or has transitioned from your local Infants and Toddlers program

#### Referral Process

- Parent referral
- Child Find
- School based team
- Transition from Early Intervention to Special Education



#### **Evaluation Process**

- To determine eligibility for Special Education services, Special Education laws require the child to have an initial evaluation.
- An evaluation is a careful look at a child's abilities, strengths and weaknesses, by a team including the child's parents, of teachers and specialists. An evaluation is based on a review of assessment data, information from parents, observations by teachers, and classroom-based, local, and State assessments, to determine whether a child has a disability and requires special education instruction and related services.

# What rights do you have at the Evaluation stage?

#### Consent

Before your child may be evaluated by the school system, the parent/guardian must agree in writing. If you do not agree, the school can request a due process hearing.

#### Timelines

An IEP team must complete an initial evaluation of student within 60 days of parental consent for assessments; and within 90 days of receiving a referral.

#### Free Evaluation

Any assessments / evaluations must be provided at no cost to you.

#### Independent Evaluation

If you disagree with an evaluation obtained by the school system, you have the right to request an evaluation at public expense by someone who does not work for the school system. If you do so, the school system must either provide the Independent Educational Evaluation or request a due process hearing to defend its evaluation.

#### The Parent's Role in Evaluations

- Talk to anyone who interacts frequently with your child
- Be candid, factual and express ALL of your concerns
- Review developmental milestones with your healthcare provider

# The Role of Educators and School Specialists

- A team of teachers and specialists will collect information about your child.
- Information is collected through:
  - \* Parental Input
  - \* Assessment Tools
  - \* Medical Information
  - \* Classroom Observations



Assessment tools can be class work, standardized testing administrations, responses to tiered instructional approaches, and teacher observation

# Who Decides if Your Child Needs Special Education?

All decisions about special education are made through the IEP team process.

IEP stands for **Individualized Education Program**.

The IEP team includes:

- \* The parent(s)
- \* Not less than one special education teacher
- \* Not less than one general education teacher
- \* A representative of the local school or local school system
- \* An individual who can interpret evaluation results
- \* Other individuals, at the discretion of the parent or local school system, who have knowledge or expertise
- \* The student, if appropriate



# Eligibility

A child becomes eligible for special education when the IEP team identifies the child as having a disability **and** in need of specialized instruction. The disability must have educational impact.

Students from age 3 to age 21 are eligible to receive special education, and must be evaluated and determined eligible based upon one of the following categories:

## **Disability Categories**

- Autism
- Deaf Blindness
- Developmental Delay
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment, including Deafness
- Mental Retardation
- Multiple Disabilities

- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment, including Blindness

## Special Education is...

A <u>service</u> not a place, which is designed based upon the unique needs of the student



## Special Education Provides...

All eligible children with disabilities a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) that is designed to meet their unique needs and to prepare them for post-secondary outcomes and independent living.



#### Consent

Parents MUST AGREE IN WRITING in order for special education services to begin. If a parent or guardian does not consent to the initiation of services, then no services will be provided, and the local school system may not take the parent to a due process hearing. This is the one and only time that a signature on

an IEP is required to initiate services.

# The Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- It is the written, individualized plan that supports and directs your child's education through a team driven process
- It is a written document that outlines the "who" "what" "when" "why" "where" and "how" of instruction and related services that are provided for students with disabilities
- Ask for a draft copy of the IEP to prepare for your child's IEP team meeting, if one has been prepared

#### INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP) MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MSDE) DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (Effective Judy 1, 2007)

O Draft O Approved O Amended	Student Information
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IEP Team Meeting Date: / Name: Agency:

STUDENT AND SCHOOL INFORMATION	
STUDENT AND SCHOOL INFORMATION  First Name:	PARENT/GUARDIAN 1  First Name:
Parent Surrogate Name: Surrogate Phone:	Areas affected by disability:
O D - Reached 21 years of age E - Deceased F - Mor	figh School Diploma ○ C - Received Maryland High School Certificate of Program Complet ed, known to be continuing ○ H - Dropped Out ○ I - Special Case
IEP TEAM PARTICIPANTS  IEP Case Manager: Principal/Designee: IEP Chair: General Educator: Parent/Guardian: Special Educator: Parent/Guardian: Guidance Counselor:	Social Worker: Others in attendance:

#### INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP) II. PRESENT LEVEL OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND FUNCTIONAL PERFORMANCE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MSDE) DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (Effective July 1, 2007)

Name:	Agency:	IEP Team Meeting Date: /	1

PRESENT LEVEL OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND FUNCTIONAL PERFORMANCE
What is the parental input regarding the student's educational program?
What are the student's strengths, interest areas, significant personal attributes, and personal accomplishments? (Include preferences and interests for post-school outcomes, if appropriate.)
How does the student's disability affect his/her involvement in the general education curriculum?
For preschool age children, how does the disability affect participation in appropriate activities?
Pone

# What is the Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance?

- This is the part of the IEP that discusses information found in various types of assessments, and/or information from teachers on academic achievements
- Parents should be prepared to share their input
- Important because it is the snapshot of your child's abilities, skills, accomplishments, and areas of need
- Helps determine goals for the student
- The Present Levels are to be reviewed at least annually and this is an opportunity for the team to determine if the student is making appropriate progress

#### INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP) III. SPECIAL COMMENTAL OF A SPECIAL EDUCATION FARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (Effective July 1, 2007)

#### III. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

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SUPPLEMENTARY AID	OS, SERVICES, PROG	RAM MODIFIC	ATIONS AND S	SUPPORTS		
Service Nature	Service Description	Begin Date	End Date	Provider(s)	ither	
Clarify the location and ma	Anticipated Frequency  Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Yearly  Only once  Periodically  Other  anner in which Supplemen	MM+DD+YYYY atary Aids, Service	мм-DD-үүүү	P	-	
Discussion to support decis	sions:					
Supplementary Aids, Service Discussion to support decis		d Supports were co	nsidered and none a	re required at this time.		
						Pag

# Instructional and Testing Accommodations

- Specific and appropriate to meet the needs of the student as defined in the IEP
- Practices and procedures that provide a student with a disability access during instruction and assessments
- Do not reduce learning expectations
- Include changes to instruction (i.e. materials, tasks) that change how a student learns

## Supplementary Aids and Services

- This section of the IEP outlines what supports the student needs in all areas
- Details "how" instruction will be delivered with the use of accommodations and modifications:
  - Where will the instruction happen?
  - How will it be presented?
  - What staff supports are needed?
  - What environmental supports are needle.
  - What social/behavioral supports are needed?

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)
MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MSDE) DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (Effective Judy 1, 2007)

IV. GOALS

IEP Team Meeting Date: / / Name: Agency:

GOAL			
Goal:			
Ву:•	• (MM•DD•YYYY)		
	thod:   INFORMAL PROCEDURES   CLASSROOM-BASED ASSESSMENT   OBSERVATION REC	ORD □ STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT □ PORTFOLIO ASSESSMEN □ other	T OTHER
	1:	Objective 3:	
Objective	2:	Objective 4:	
Progress Toward Goal			
Progress Report 1 Date	Progress Code: Achieved Making sufficient progress to meet goal  Description:	Not making sufficient progress to meet the goal (IEP team needs to meet to address insufficient progress)	O Not yet introduced
Progress Report 2 Date	Progress Code: Achieved Making sufficient progress to meet goal  Description:	Not making sufficient progress to meet the goal     (IEP team needs to meet to address insufficient progress)	O Not yet introduced
Progress Report 3 Date	Progress Code: Achieved Making sufficient progress to meet goal  Description:	Not making sufficient progress to meet the goal     (IEP team needs to meet to address insufficient progress)	O Not yet introduced
Progress Report 4 Date	Progress Code: Achieved Making sufficient progress to meet goal  Description:	Not making sufficient progress to meet the goal     (IEP team needs to meet to address insufficient progress)	O Not yet introduced
Progress Report 5 Date	Progress Code: Achieved Making sufficient progress to meet goal  Description:	Not making sufficient progress to meet the goal     (IEP team needs to meet to address insufficient progress)	O Not yet introduced
	rent be notified of the student's progress toward the IEP goals?		Page 16

# Goals and Objectives

- Annual goals are established based upon the Individualized need of the student using multiple sources of data collection and the student's present level of academic achievement and functional performance
- All goals are evaluated and data are collected on progress towards mastery of the goal
- Goals are broken down into objectives
- Progress towards goals is sent to parents at least as frequently as non-disabled peers

**Please Note:** Annual goals and objectives should align with grade level general education curriculum standards, functional performance requirements, and the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC)

IEP Team Meeting Date: / / Name: Agency:

SERVICES									
O SPECIAL EDUCATION SERV	ICES								
Service Nature	Location		Service Descript	ilon	Begin Date	End Date	Provider(s)  ② = Primary, () = Othe	ır.	Summary of Service
Classroom Instruction (Identifying the number of sessions for Classroom Instruction is optional) Physical Education Speech/Language Therapy Travel Training	○ In General Education ○ Outside General Education	Number of Sessions 1 2 3 4 5 6 6 Other	Length of Time (Select the length of time, in 15 minute increments, that the service is provided during each session)  15 Min.  30 Min.  45 Min.  1 Hr.  1 Hr. 15 Min.  1 Hr. 30 Min.  2 Hrs.  3 Hrs.  Other	Frequency  Weekly  Monthly  Yearly  Only once  Recheck Periodically	MM-DD YYYY	MM-DD YYYY	P	Audiologist     P   Psychologist     P   EP Team     P   Interpreter     P   Interpreter     P   Interpreter     P   Home-Based Teacher     P   School Social Worker     P   Recreational Therapist     Recreational Therapist     P   School Social Worker     P   School Social	Total service time: O weekly O monthly yearly Hrs. Min.
ESY Service Nature	ESY Location		ESY Service Descri	intion	ESY Begin	ESY End	FELL Don 1 to 14 to		_
			LSI Service Descri	pcion	Date	Date	ESY Provider(s)  (P) = Primary, () = Othe	er	Summary of Service
Classroom Instruction (Identifying the number of sessions for Classroom Instruction is optional) Physical Education Speech/Language Therapy Travel Training	○ In General Education ○ Outside General Education	Number of Sessions 1 2 3 4 5 6 6 Other	Length of Time (Select the length of time, in 15 minute increments, that the service is provided during each session)  15 Min.  30 Min.  45 Min.  1 Hr.  1 Hr.  1 Hr. 30 Min.  2 Hrs.  3 Hrs.  Other	Frequency  Weekly  Monthly  Yearly  Only once  Recheck  Periodically				Audiologist     P   Psychologist     P   EP Team     Interpreter     Instructional Assistant     P   Psysical Therapist     Home-Based Teacher     Guidance Courselor     Guidance Courselor     School Social Worker     Recreational Therapist     Recreational Therapist     Course     Recreational Therapist     Course     Recreational Therapist     Course     C	of
(Identifying the number of sessions for Classroom Instruction is optional) O Physical Education O Speech/Language Therapy	○ In General Education ○ Outside General Education	of Sessions 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 5 0 6	Length of Time (Select the length of time, in 15 minute increments, that the service is provided during each session)  15 Min.  30 Min.  45 Min.  1 Hr.  1 Hr. 15 Min.  1 Hr. 30 Min.  2 Hrs.  3 Hrs.	Frequency  Weekly  Monthly  Yearly  Only once  Recheck	Date MM+DD	Date MM-DD	Primary. • Othe  P Orientation & Mobility Specialist  Specch/Language Pathologist  Teacher of the Hearing Impaired  Teacher of the Visually Impaired  Teacher of the Visually Impaired  Teacher of the Visually Impaired  O Ccupational Therapist  P Oppil Personnel Worker  P Oppil Personnel Worker  O Oppil Personnel Worker  O Oppil Personnel Teacher  Career & Technology Tchr  O Department of Social Services (DSS)  Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA)  D Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)  Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)  Other Agency.  O Special Education Classroom Teacher	Audiologist     P   Psychologist     P   EP Team     Interpreter     Instructional Assistant     P   Psysical Therapist     Home-Based Teacher     Guidance Courselor     Guidance Courselor     School Social Worker     Recreational Therapist     Recreational Therapist     Course     Recreational Therapist     Course     Recreational Therapist     Course     C	Total service time:     weekly monthly yearly     Hrs.

#### **Special Education Services**

- Outlines the nature of the service (i.e. classroom instruction, physical education, speech/language or travel training)
- Description of the service (i.e. number of sessions, length of time and frequency)
- Provider(s) of the service



IEP Team Meeting Date: / / Name: Agency:

RELATED SERVICES								
Service Nature	Location		Service Descrip	tion	Begin Date	End Date	Provider(s) ② = Primary, ○ = Other	Summar of Service
Audiological Services Psychological Services Occupational Therapy Physical Therapy Physical Therapy Recreation Early Identification & Assessment Counseling Services School Health Services Social Work Services Parent Counseling & Training Rehabilitative Counseling Orientation & Mobility Training Services Assistive Technology Services Medical Services (Diagnostic & Evaluation) Other Therapies Interpreting Services Speech/Language Therapy	○ In General Education ○ Outside General Education	Number of Sessions 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 0 0 ther	Length of Time (Select the length of time, in 15 minute increments, that the service is provided during each session)  15 Min.  15 Min.  45 Min.  1 Hr. 15 Min.  1 Hr. 30 Min.  2 Hrs.  3 Hrs.  Other	Frequency  Weekly  Monthly  Yearly  Only once  Recheck  Periodically	MM-DD YYYY	MM-DD YYYY	P	fHrs.
ESY Service Nature	ESY Location		ESY Service Descr	iption	ESY Begin Date	ESY End Date	ESY Provider(s) ② = Primary, ○ = Other	Summary Service
Audiological Services Psychological Services Occupational Therapy Physical Therapy Recreation Early Identification & Assessment Counseling Services School Health Services Social Work Services Parent Counseling & Training Rehabilitative Counseling Orientation & Mobility Training Services Assistive Technology Services (Diagnostic & Evaluation) Other Therapies Unterpreting Services	○ In General Education ○ Outside General Education	Number of Sessions	Length of Time (Select the length of time, in 15 minute increments, that the service is provided during each session)  15 Min.  30 Min.  45 Min.  1 Hr. 15 Min.  1 Hr. 30 Min.  2 Hrs.  3 Hrs.  Other	Frequency  Weekly  Monthly  Yearly  Only once  Recheck Periodically	MM-DD YYYY	MM-DD YYYY	P	fHrs.

#### Related Services

- Developmental, corrective and other supportive services that are required to assist a child with a disability in order to benefit from Special Education
- Related services are identified by the IEP team
- Related services cover many disciplines



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MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MSDE) DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (Effective Judy 1, 2007)

VI. PLACEMENT DATA

IEP Team Meeting Date: / / Name: Agency:

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT (LRE) DECISION MAKING & PLACEMENT SUMMARY  A student with a disability is not removed from general education in an age-appropriate instructional setting solely because of needed modifications to the general curriculum.
What placement option(s) did the IEP team consider?
If removed from the general education environment, explain reasons why services cannot be provided in the general education environment with the use of supplementary aid and services:
Document basis for decision(s):
Total time in school week:hrsminutes/week} - {Total time outside of General Education:hrsminutes/week} = {Total time in General Education:hrsminutes/week}
O Special education placement (ages 3-5): □ IN REGULAR EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTING (at least 80%) □ PUBLIC SEPARATE DAY SCHOOL □ HOME  Average %/day □ IN REGULAR EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTING (40% - 79%) □ PUBLIC RESIDENTIAL FACILITY □ IN REGULAR EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTING (less than 40%) □ PUBLIC RESIDENTIAL FACILITY □ SEPARATE CLASS □ PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY
O Special education placement (ages 6-21): □INSIDE GENERAL EDUCATION (80% or more) □PUBLIC SEPARATE DAY SCHOOL □PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY □PARENTALLY PLACED IN PRIVATE SCHOOL □HOMEBOUND/HOSPITAL □INSIDE GENERAL EDUCATION (less than 40%) □PUBLIC RESIDENTIAL FACILITY □CORRECTIONAL FACILITES □PARENTALLY PLACED IN PRIVATE SCHOOL □PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY □CORRECTIONAL FACILITY □CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
In selecting the LRE, are there any potential harmful effects on the student or quality of services he or she needs? O YES O NO
If yes, document basis for decision(s):
Are the services in the student's home school (the school the student would attend if not disabled)? O YES O NO If no, document basis for decision(s):
If no, is placement as close as possible to the student's home? OYES ONO If no, document basis for decision(s):
Is special transportation needed? O YES O NO If Yes, list all specialized equipment, if needed:
Are personnel needed to assist the student during transportation?   YES  NO If yes, explain:
Document basis for decision(s) (including consideration of the amount of time and distance involved in travel):
Provide an explanation to the extent, if any, the student will not participate with non-disabled peers in academic, non-academic, and extracurricular activities?
SSIS Residence CountySSIS Residence School
SSIS Service CountySSIS Service School
200 201 100 201001
CHILD COUNT ELIGIBILITY CODES
<ul> <li>(1) Eligible student with a disability served in a public school or placed in a nonpublic school by the public agency to receive FAPE.</li> <li>(2) Eligible parentally placed private school student with a disability receiving special education and/or related service through a service plan from the public agency.</li> <li>(3) Eligible parentally placed private school student with a disability NOT receiving service from the public agency.</li> </ul>

# Learning in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

- It means that children with disabilities are educated with their typically developing peers to the maximum extent appropriate
- The child's placement is
  - determined at least annually
  - based on the IEP
  - as close as possible to the child's home

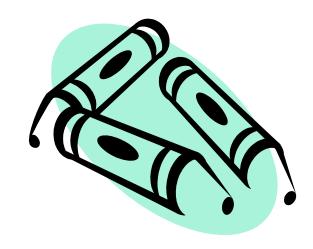


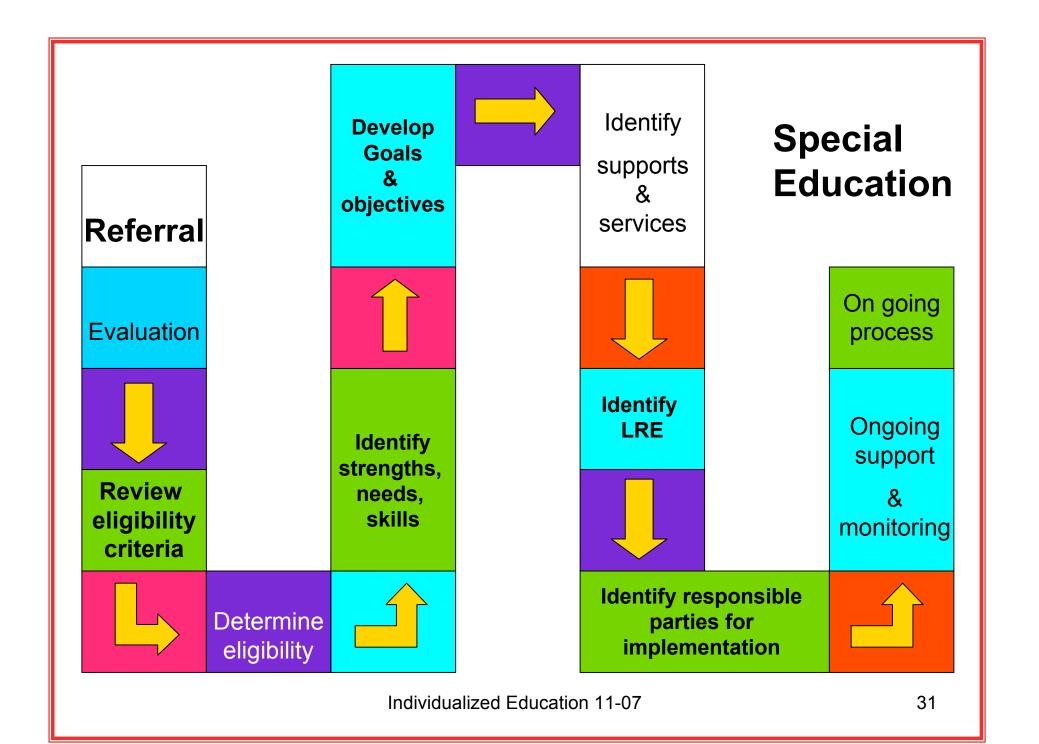
 Placement decisions are based upon the unique needs of the child and made by the IEP team



# Students with special needs participate in many different kinds of settings

- Regular education classroom with modifications and accommodations
- Regular education classroom with pullout to the special education classroom
- Special education classroom
- Public special education day school
- Non-public schools
- Residential schools
- Home and hospital
- Preschool settings





#### Resources and Partners

 Family Support Services – Family Support Network, Preschool Partners, Partners for Success Centers 1-800-535-0182

www.marylandpublicschools.org www.mdecgateway.org

Parents Place of Maryland
 info@ppmd.org 410-768-9100



Local and Community Resources