

* Welcome *

Breakout sessions are provided by presenters who have volunteered to share their knowledge and experience with us today at the 2025 Family Summit.

Please remember that the information and experiences shared are understandings and perspectives of the presenters.



Help! I Just Got An IEP!

FCPS Family Resource Center

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Objective

To support families feeling comfortable in understanding their child's needs and concerns, gathering documentation, actively participating in the IEP meetings, discussing potential accommodations and services, and being aware of their rights as a parent to advocate for your child's needs. As well as getting familiar with Fairfax County Public Schools supports.



Dr. Shannon Anderson



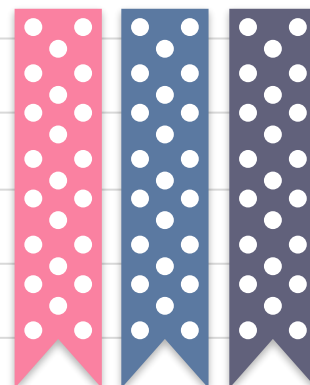
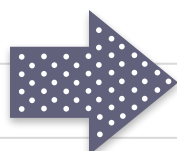
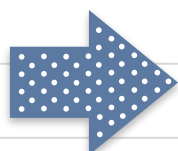
Nadya Osterling



Diana Wertz



Amal Elsayed



What to Expect Before the Meeting



The meeting must be scheduled on a mutually agreed upon time between school and family.



The family must receive the following documents at least 2 days prior to the meeting: draft, meeting agenda, diploma options, ES documents, Procedural safeguards, notice letter, parent information form.

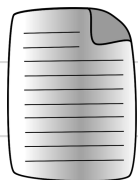


All families are entitled to an interpreter to support during the meeting (organized by the school).



Start a preferred organization method (Binder, docs, notebook).

What to Expect Before the Meeting



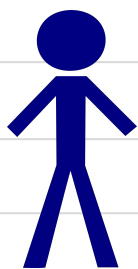
Make copies of all documents sent to you, electronic or hard copies.



Keep all emails (logs).



Write down any questions or concerns you may have and bring them to the meeting or share them with the team ahead of time.



As the parent or guardian you are entitled to invite any person to the IEP meeting. The school will provide a consent to exchange information to allow their participation during the IEP meeting.

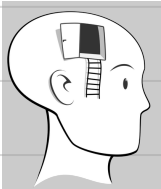
During the Meeting:



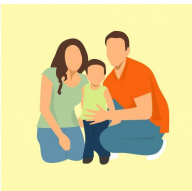
All required team members need to be present for a meeting to take place. Required members are dependent on the student services. Parents have the right to excuse or dismiss a team member by signing a non-attendance form.



Get comfortable with being uncomfortable. It can be hard to listen to a child's needs.



Keep an open-mind.



No question is a bad question. The parent is the expert on their child and the most valuable member of the team.

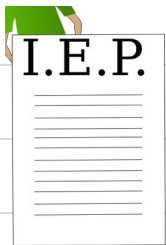
During the Meeting:



As a team member, you can request goals be reworded or explained better.



Goals are based on the identified areas of need during the eligibility meeting. Accommodations and services are based on each child individual needs.



IEP goals do not only address academic needs.



A child can attend an IEP the meeting at any time. However, is required at age 14 (child can decline).



When the meeting is over take your time reviewing the IEP. You do not have to sign at the table.

After the Meeting:



Meeting is over! The family should received the final IEP within a week of the meeting.



You have received the IEP proposal. You have 3 consent decisions:

Agreement

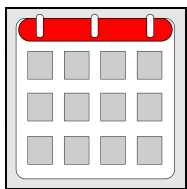
Partial Agreement

Disagreement



None of the proposed goals, accommodations and services will take place until consent has been received from the family.

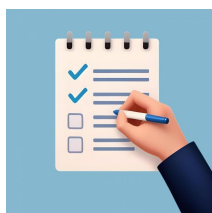
After the Meeting:



IEPs are fluid documents. As kids progress, the teams have to reconvene. There is no maximum amount of times a team can meet.



As a parent you have the right to request the IEP team to reconvene at any time.



Families will receive progress reports every academic quarter reviewing progress toward the proposed IEP goals.

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The school system is tasked with investigating if a child continues to require special education services at least every 3 years. This process is known as a reevaluation meeting.

People You Should Know

1. Child's case manager
2. Special Education Administrator
3. Special Education Department Chair
4. Related Services providers (Speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy)
5. Procedural Support Liaison
6. Transportation Supervisor
7. Due Process and Eligibility

Other Resources:

- FCPS Family Resource Center
- FCPS Family Academy
- From Emotions to Advocacy: The Special Education Survival Guide
- Nolo's IEP Guide: Learning Disability
- The Art of Advocacy: a Parent's Guide to a Collaborative IEP Process
- Due Process and Eligibility

The Family Resource Center

- Confidential consultations
- Informative webinars
- Digital resources
- Lending library

Email: frc@fcps.edu

Call: 703-204-3941



Closing

Showing up matters!

