

20 Steps to Getting a Good IEP

by Reed Martin, J.D.

Before the Meeting

1. Chart needs of your child that affect the child's ability to meet all of the school's expectations for a typical student, including transition successfully after public education
2. Examine all records relating to your child
3. Review last year's performance
4. Determine if additional evaluation is needed
5. Let the school know in writing before the IEP meeting what you want that will be different, and remind the school of their duty to reply in writing whether they will accept or refuse your proposal
6. Make sure the proper people will be at the IEP meeting

At the Meeting

7. Object, on the record, to procedures that discourage parental participation, and consider re-scheduling the IEP meeting
8. Describe problems your child has that affect "educational" benefit
9. Set goals in each problem area, with appropriate consideration of transition
10. Select interim objectives
11. Set evaluation schedules and criteria for each objective and goal, including the parent role in assessing effectiveness
12. Develop the plan
13. Determine needed related services
14. List resources to be allocated
15. Examine contingencies, such as absence of key personnel or disciplinary infractions
16. Determine where the program will be carried out
17. Remove any unnecessary restrictiveness
18. Plan the transition component
19. Monitor progress
20. Prepare for the next IEP or call for the revision of the current one if there is a lack of expected progress toward the annual goals

This information is educational and not intended to be legal advice. Reed Martin is an attorney with over 33 years experience in special education law and recognized as one of the nation's leading experts. He can be reached through email at connie@westco.net or www.reedmartin.com.