

LOUISIANA BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE

for Parents of Students with Disabilities

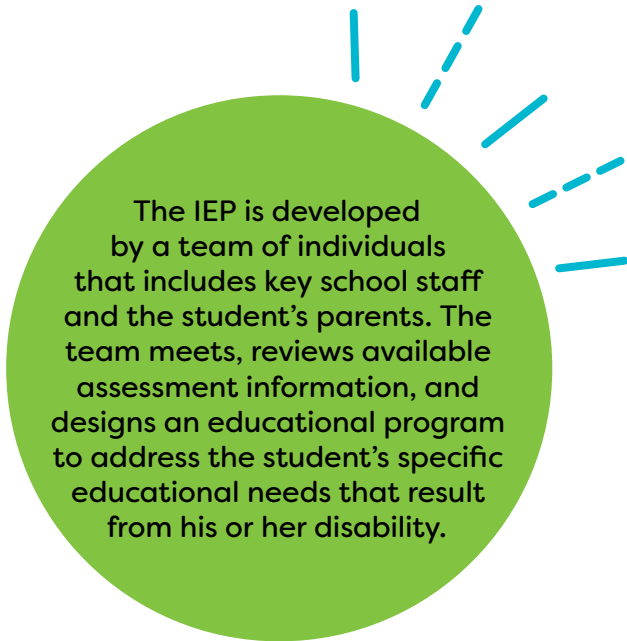
A new school year means a new grade level, new teachers, and new goals. This guide provides you, as a parent of a child with a disability, with a quick overview of what you can do to prepare your child for a smooth transition back into school.

WHAT IS AN IEP?

Why is it important?

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS (IEP)

- Outline individualized learning plans for students receiving special education services
- Define students' needs and services based on a comprehensive evaluation process
- Set reasonable learning goals aligned to grade level expectations



The IEP is developed by a team of individuals that includes key school staff and the student's parents. The team meets, reviews available assessment information, and designs an educational program to address the student's specific educational needs that result from his or her disability.

HOW CAN I PREPARE MY CHILD FOR

a smooth transition back to school?

STUDENT LEARNING

- ✓ Review IEP goals with your child and make sure he or she understands expectations for the year
- ✓ Contact your child's teachers and related services providers to share information and answer any questions about your child's individual needs
- ✓ Know your child's accommodations and practice using them at home
- ✓ If your child is just entering high school and may be eligible for an alternative pathway under Act 833 (2014), schedule an IEP meeting within the first 30 days of school to develop additional IEP goals and objectives

HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT *Student Learning at Home?*

Learning does not end in the classroom. At home, parents play a critical role by supporting their children and setting high expectations for learning. As a parent, equip yourself with an understanding of what students should know and be able to do and then have on-going, meaningful conversations about it with your child and your child's teacher. By taking these small steps, you will help your child become successful both in and outside the classroom.

STUDENT *Conversations*

What are you learning
in _____ class?

Do you understand
what you are learning?

Do you get any additional help from
your teacher (or related service
provider such as speech pathologist)
with this topic?

Do you feel comfortable
asking for additional help
when you need it?

Did you leave your classroom to work
on anything in small groups?
What did you learn?

TEACHER *Conversations*

What types of accommodations
and supports does my child receive
everyday?

Is my child able to effectively
communicate with you?

Can you show me
an example
of my child's work?

Is my child making the progress
necessary to keep him/her on track
with his/her peers?

What can we do to continue to help
my child improve?

Tools and Resources

TO SUPPORT PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Below are additional resources that you can access to further support your child's learning at home.

LOUISIANA'S FAMILY SUPPORT TOOLBOX LIBRARY

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/family-support-toolbox-library>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES LIBRARY

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/academics>

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/students-with-disabilities/resources-for-parents-of-students-with-disabilities.pdf>

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS: A GUIDEBOOK FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/students-with-disabilities/strategies-for-success-a-guidebook-for-supporting-students-with-disabilities.pdf>
