

LOUISIANA BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE

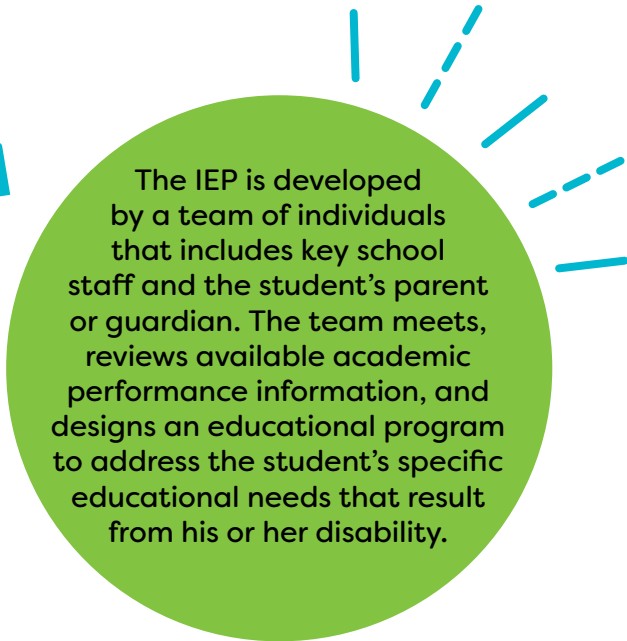
for Parents of Students with Disabilities

A new school year means new classes, 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 help prepare your child for a smooth transition back to school.

WHAT IS AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)?

Why is it important?

- Outlines individualized learning plans for a student receiving special education services
- Defines student needs and services based on a comprehensive evaluation process
- Sets measurable 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 parent or guardian. The team meets, reviews available academic performance 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 your child 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 I SUPPORT *Student Learning at Home?*

Learning should not end in the classroom. At home, you can play a critical role by supporting your child and setting high expectations for learning. As a parent, equip yourself with an understanding of what your child should know and be able to do and then have on-going, meaningful conversations about it with your child and your child's teacher(s). 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-services providers, such
as a speech pathologist) with this topic?

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

Do you leave your classroom to work on
anything in small groups?
What do you learn?

TEACHER *Conversations*

What types of accommodations and supports
does my child receive every day?

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 on track with peers?

What can I 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 INFORMATION PAGE

<http://louisianabelieves.com/students-with-disabilities>

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>

WHOM DO I NEED TO CONTACT *with questions?*

Please call or email your child's teacher with questions about their progress. Additional questions that can't be addressed by their teacher, should be directed to the school principal.
