

MASTERING THE MAZE

The Special Education Process



Process 3: Reevaluation to Determine if Changes
Need to be Made to the IEP

Alabama State Department of Education
Office of Student Learning
Special Education Services
August 2019 Edition

Current as of 9, 2018

Alabama State Department of Education, Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education

The Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, religion, national origin, or age in their programs, activities, or employment and provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person is responsible for handling inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Title IX Coordinator, Alabama State Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101, telephone (334) 694-4717.

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Governor Kay Ivey, President

Jackie Zeigler, President Pro Tem, District I

Tracie West, District II

Stephanie Bell, District III

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D., District IV

Ella B. Bell, District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D., District VI

Jeffrey Newman, Vice President, District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D., District VIII

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education

Jeff Langham, Ed.D., Chief of Staff

Daniel Boyd, Ph.D., Deputy State Superintendent of Education

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING

Elisabeth Davis, Ed.D., Assistant State Superintendent

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Crystal Richardson, Program Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms	2
Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Membership	5
Process Chart 3: Reevaluation to Determine If Changes Need to Be Made to the IEP	6
Things to Remember When Going Through Process 3.....	7
Written Agreement Between the Parent and the Public Agency to Amend the IEP	8
Things to Remember When Using Written Agreement.....	9
Annotate Process	10
Record of Access to Student Records	11
Guide for When Using This Record to Access Student Records.....	12
Special Education Rights Under the IDEA	13
Guide for When Completing Special Education Rights.....	26
Notice and Invitation to a Meeting/Consent for Agency Participation	27
Guide for When to Notice and Invitation to a Meeting/Consent for Agency Participation.....	28
Notice of IEP Team’s Decision Regarding Reevaluation	31
Guide for When to Use the Notice of IEP Team’s Decision Regarding Reevaluation.....	32
Notice and Consent for Reevaluation	34
Guide for When to Use the Notice of and Consent for Reevaluation.....	35
Notice of Proposal or Refusal to Take Action	36
Guide for When to Use the Notice of Proposal or Refusal to Take Action	37
Process 3: Reevaluation to Determine if Changes Need to Be Made to the IEP	40

ACRONYMS

AAA	Alabama Alternate Assessment
AAC	<i>Alabama Administrative Code</i>
ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis
ADA	<i>Americans with Disabilities Act</i>
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ADRS	Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
AEIS	Alabama's Early Intervention System
ALSDE	Alabama State Department of Education
AMSI	Alabama Middle School Initiative
AMSTI	Alabama Math, Science & Technology
APR	Annual Performance Report
ARFI	Alabama Reading First Initiative
ARI	Alabama Reading Initiative
AT	Assistive Technology
AUT	Autism
BCBA	Board-Certified Behavior Analyst
BIP	Behavioral Intervention Plan
CCRS	College and Career Ready Standards
CRS	Children Rehabilitation Services
CEIS	Coordinated Early Intervening Services
CCEIS	Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services
DB	Deaf-Blindness
DD	Developmental Delay
DIBELS	Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
DPH	Due Process Hearing
ED	Emotional Disability
eGAP	Electronic Grant Application Process
EI	Early Intervention
EL	English Learner
ELPP	Early Learning Progress
ESA	Educational Service Agency

ACRONYMS

ESY	Extended School Year
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education
FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment
HI	Hearing Impairment
IAES	Interim Alternative Educational Setting
ID	Intellectual Disability
IDEA	<i>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</i>
IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation
IEP	Individualized Education Program
IFSP	Individual Family Service Plan
LEA	Local Education Agency
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
MD	Multiple Disabilities
MDR	Manifestation Determination Review
OHI	Other Health Impairment
OI	Orthopedic Impairment
O&M	Orientation and Mobility
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
OT	Occupational Therapy/Therapist
PBS	Positive Behavioral Supports
PST	Problem Solving Team
PT	Physical Therapy/Therapist
RIC	Regional Inservice Center
SBMH	School Based Mental Health
SEA	State Education Agency
SES	Special Education Services
SETS	Special Education Tracking System
SLD	Specific Learning Disability
SLI	Speech or Language Impairment
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist

ACRONYMS

SPP	State Performance Plan
SPDG	State Personnel Development Grant
SSR	Student Services Review
TA	Technical Assistance
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
UCP	United Cerebral Palsy
VI	Visual Impairment
VRS	Vocational Rehabilitation Services

IEP TEAM MEMBERSHIP

AAC pages 525-526 (3) (a-i)

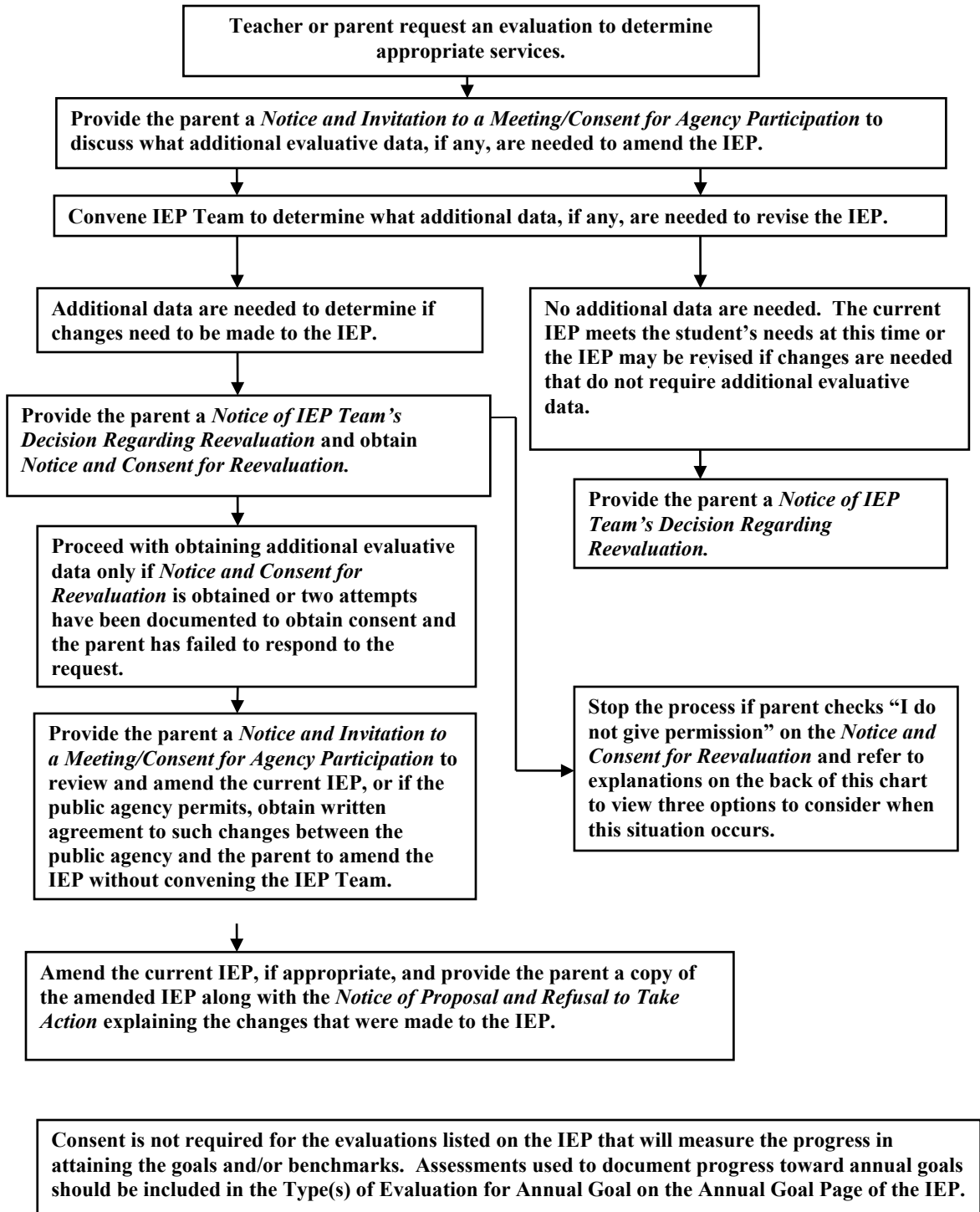
The **IEP Team** is composed of the following:

1. **The Parent of the student with a disability.**
2. **Not less than one regular education teacher of the student** if the student is or may be participating in the regular education environment. The regular education teacher must, to the extent appropriate, participate in the development, review, and revision of the student's IEP, including assisting in the determination of appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports and other strategies for the student and the determination of supplementary aids and services, program modifications, and supports for school personnel.
3. **Not less than one special education teacher of the student** or, where appropriate, not less than one special education provider of the student.
4. ***A representative of the public agency** who: is qualified to provide, or supervise the provision of, specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities; is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum; is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the public agency; has the authority to commit agency resources; and be able to ensure that IEP services will be provided. A public agency may designate a public agency member of the IEP Team to also serve as the agency representative, if the criteria for serving as a public agency representative are met.
5. ***An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results**, who may be a member of the IEP Team that is described in this section of required members of an IEP Team.
6. **At the discretion of the parent or the agency**, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student, including related services personnel, as appropriate. The determination of the knowledge or special expertise of any individual is made by the party (parents or public agency) who invites the individual to be a member of the IEP Team.
7. **Whenever appropriate, the student with a disability.**
8. **Career/Technical Representative.** A representative of career/technical education must be included as a member of the IEP Team for those children with disabilities who have been referred for, or are currently receiving career/technical education. The IEP of each secondary child with a disability must show any career/technical education program involvement, as well as needed accommodations and/or modifications made in the program.
9. **Secondary Transition Services Participants.** In addition to the participants specified above, if a purpose of the meeting is the consideration of the postsecondary goals for the student and the transition services needed to assist the student in reaching those goals, the public agency must invite the student and, with the consent of the parent or a student who has reached the age of majority, a representative of any other agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services. If the student does not attend the IEP Team meeting, the public agency must take other steps to ensure that the student's preferences and interests are considered.
10. **Early Intervention Representatives.** In the case of a child who was previously served under Part C/Early Intervention (EI), an invitation to the initial IEP Team meeting must, at the request of the parent, be sent to the EI service coordinator or other representatives of the EI system to assist with the smooth transition of services.

*If an IEP Team Member is serving in two positions at a meeting (e.g., special education teacher is also serving as someone who can interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results) he/she should sign his/her name by each position he/she is representing

Process Chart 3

REEVALUATION TO DETERMINE IF CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE TO THE IEP



PROCESS CHART 3

REEVALUATION TO DETERMINE IF CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE TO THE IEP

Things to Remember When Going Through This Process

REMEMBER:

1. Use this process any time an IEP Team member requests an evaluation to determine if changes need to be made to the IEP. Examples include a request for an evaluation for occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology, functional behavior assessment, and academic or functional area(s) not covered in the current IEP, etc.
2. If the parent or student (age 19 and older) refuse to provide consent for the reevaluation, the IEP Team has three options:
 - The IEP Team may request that the parent or student (age 19 and older) participate in a conference to discuss his/her decision.
 - The IEP Team may determine that the additional evaluative data is not absolutely necessary in order to make changes to the IEP.
 - The public agency may ask for mediation from the ALSDE or the public agency may initiate a due process hearing in order to have an impartial hearing officer order an evaluation to be conducted over the parent or student's (age 19 and older) objections.
3. If the parent or student (age 19 and older) fails to respond to a request to provide consent for the reevaluation, the public agency may proceed with the evaluation as long as it has made two documented attempts.
4. Written notice must be given to the parent a reasonable time before the public agency proposes or refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of FAPE to a child.

WRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARENT AND THE PUBLIC AGENCY TO AMEND THE IEP

Student Name _____ Birth Date _____ Student ID # _____
 School _____ Case Manager _____

In making changes to a student's IEP, the parent of a student with a disability and the public school system may agree not to convene an IEP Team meeting, and instead may develop a written document to amend or modify the student's IEP.

In order to make this proposed change to the IEP and not convene the IEP Team, your written agreement to make this change is needed. If you agree to the proposed change(s), your student's IEP Team members will be informed of the change(s). You will receive a copy of the revised IEP with the change(s) incorporated. Please check, sign, and date below, and return this form to your student's teacher.

I approve the proposed enclosed change(s) to the annual IEP, and I do not wish to have a meeting.

Parent Signature

Date

You have the right to request an IEP Team meeting to discuss this with school personnel. If you wish to have a meeting, please check, sign, and date below, and return this form to your student's teacher.

I wish to request an IEP Team meeting to discuss this change.

Parent Signature

Date

Please return this form by _____.

 Signature of Education Agency Official

 Telephone Number

Date this form was provided/sent to the parent/student (age 19) _____

WRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARENT AND THE PUBLIC AGENCY TO AMEND THE IEP

Purpose of this form:

- To have documentation in writing from the parent or student (age 19 and older) that revisions may be made to the IEP (other than at the annual IEP Team meeting) without convening the IEP Team.

When to use this form:

- To document making changes to the IEP (other than at the annual IEP Team meeting) without convening the IEP Team.

Things to remember when completing this form:

- When making revisions to the IEP other than at the annual IEP Team meeting, the parent of a child with a disability or the student (age 19 and older) and the public agency may agree not to convene an IEP Team meeting for the purposes of making changes to the annual IEP. If changes are made to the child's IEP without a meeting of the IEP Team, the public agency must obtain the parent or student's (age 19 and older) written agreement to such changes before any changes are implemented.
- When making revisions to the IEP other than at the annual IEP meeting, the IEP revision(s) must be written on the student's IEP and dated. A completed copy of the IEP with the amendments incorporated must be filed with the student's education records, and the parent or student (age 19 and older) must be provided a revised copy of the IEP with the amendments incorporated, a copy of the signed written agreement form, and the *Notice of Proposal or Refusal to Take Action* form explaining the revisions.
- When making revisions to the IEP other than at the annual IEP Team meeting, the IEP Team, as well as anyone responsible for implementing the IEP, must be informed of changes to the IEP. The *Persons Responsible for IEP Implementation* form must be updated to reflect any changes in service providers and/or responsibilities.
- Remember to complete **Date copy of amended IEP provided/sent to parent/student (age 19)** on the signature page of the IEP.

What happens next:

- A copy of the written agreement between the parent or student (age 19 and older) and the public agency must be given to the parent or the student (age 19 and older).
- A copy of the amended IEP must be given to the parent or the student (age 19 and older).
- A copy of the *Notice of Proposal or Refusal to Take Action* must be given to the parent and the student (age 19 and older) explaining the changes/amendments.
- Document the date a copy of this form was provided to the parent/student (age 19) on the bottom of this form.

Annotate Process

Student Name: _____ SSID: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name of Process: _____ Process Create Date: _____

All entries should have the entry date and the name of the person making the note.

Example: First Last name-xx/xx/xx- Notes

RECORD OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

It is the policy of the Board of Education, in accordance with IDEA, to provide procedural safeguards that protect the individual confidentiality of all student records. The Board of Education authorizes the following categories of persons to review any personally identifiable data relating to students with disabilities:

CATEGORIES OF PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO REVIEW DATA

1. Parents
2. Student
3. State Department of Education Representatives
4. Federal Education Agency Representatives
5. Local Education Agency Representatives*
6. Other State Agency Representatives*

* Limited to those representatives who have a legitimate educational interest in the student's special education program.

Signature of Person Reviewing Record	Category 1-6	Reason for Review	Date of Review
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

AAC page 539 (8)(d)(1)

RECORD OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

Purpose(s) of this form:

- To document the name of the person reviewing the record, the reason for the review, and the date of the review.

When to use this form:

- When a request is made for access to and disclosure of a special education student's records.

Things to remember when completing this form:

- The special education records are confidential and must be kept in a secure location.
- Each special education student record must contain a *Record of Access to Student Records* form.
- The parent may inspect and review all educational records relating to identification, evaluation, educational placement, and provision of FAPE of his/her child that are collected, maintained, or used by the education agency.
- After providing written authorization to the education agency, the parent may have a representative review his/her child's records under the same access rights afforded to him/her.
- The local education agency is responsible for maintaining a log of each request for access to and disclosure of special education records.
- The parent, the student's teacher, and local education agency representatives are not required to sign each and every time the file is reviewed.
- If the records of a student contain information on more than one student, the parent or eligible student may inspect and review or be informed of only the specific information about that student.

What happens next:

- The education agency must retain a copy of the student's records containing personally identifiable information for a period of five (5) years after the termination of the special education program for which they were used.
- At the end of the five-year retention period, special education records may be destroyed. To meet the notice requirement regarding the destruction of records, the education agency must inform the parent and student (that has reached the age of majority). This may be in the form of a public notice or in a letter to the parent and student (age 19 and older). Notice must include the years of the records that will be destroyed and the date of destruction.
- The education agency is not prohibited from retaining records indefinitely as long as confidentiality is ensured.

AAC pages 543-562

**SPECIAL EDUCATION RIGHTS
UNDER THE *INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)***

To _____ Date Provided _____

You are receiving a copy of *Special Education Rights* (procedural safeguards) for the following reason(s):

- Required annual copy
- Initial referral/Parental request for evaluation
- Disciplinary action resulting in change of placement.
- Parental request
- 1st State complaint filed
- 1st Request for due process hearing

If you have questions or need further assistance in understanding these rights, please contact:

_____ at _____
Name Telephone Number

Federal and state laws create specific rights for those eligible for SES. A copy of those rights must be given to parents only one time a year, except that a copy must also be given to the parents upon initial referral or parental request for evaluation, upon the first state complaint in a school year and upon the first request for a due process hearing in a school year, when a decision is made to the disciplinary action that constitutes a change of placement, and upon request by a parent. The following is an explanation of those rights. If you would like a further explanation of any of these rights, you may contact the individual named above; your school principal; the special education coordinator in your school system; or your superintendent of schools. If you want another copy of your rights, have any questions, or wish to arrange a conference, please contact the individual named above.

PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE

Your education agency must provide you with prior written notice within a reasonable time before it proposes or refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE). The notice must include a full explanation of all of the procedural safeguards available to you; a description of the action proposed or refused by the education agency; an explanation of why your education agency proposes or refuses to take the action; a description of other options considered by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team and the reasons why those options were rejected; a description of each evaluation procedure, assessment, record, or report the education agency used as a basis for the proposal or refusal; a description of any other factors which are relevant to the education agency’s proposal or refusal; sources to contact to obtain assistance in understanding the rights for special education; a statement indicating that you have protection under the procedural safeguards; and if the notice sent to you is not the first referral for evaluation, the way by which you may obtain a copy of the procedural safeguards. The written notice must be understandable to the general public and provided in your native language or other mode of communication, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so. If your native language or other mode of communication is not a written language, your education agency must take steps to ensure that the notice is translated orally or by other means to you in your native language or other mode of communication; that you understand the content of the notice; that you are provided sources to contact to obtain assistance in understanding the information; and that there is written evidence that these requirements have been met. If your education agency offers parents the choice of receiving documents by email, you may choose to receive prior written notice by email. Written notice must be provided to you when your child graduates from high school with a regular diploma or exits because he or she has exceeded the age of eligibility for a free appropriate public education.

PARENTAL CONSENT

Your education agency must obtain your informed written consent before conducting an initial evaluation, before the initial provision of special education and related services, or before obtaining additional data as part of a reevaluation. Your consent to an initial evaluation must not be construed as consent for initial provision of special education services and related services. The education agency may but is not required to use the state procedures for mediation and due process hearings to determine whether initial evaluations or reevaluations may be conducted when you have refused informed written consent. If the hearing officer upholds your education agency, the education agency may evaluate subject to your rights to appeal the decision and the child must remain in the current educational placement awaiting the decision of the appeal unless you and the education agency agree otherwise. If the parent of a child refuses to give consent to the initial provision of special education and related services, or fails to respond to a request for consent, the education agency shall not provide special education and related services to the child by utilizing due process hearing or mediation procedures. In this instance, the education agency will not be considered to be in violation of the requirement to make available a free appropriate public education to the child and is not required to convene an IEP Team meeting or develop an IEP for the child. The same applies if, subsequent to the initial provision of special education and related services, the parent revokes consent in writing and the public agency provides prior written notice before ceasing services. If the parent revokes consent in writing after the initial provision of services, the public agency is not required to amend the child's education record to remove any references to the child's receipt of special education and related services because of the revocation of consent.

Your education agency must obtain your informed consent before it reevaluates your child unless your education agency can demonstrate that it took reasonable steps to obtain your consent for your child's reevaluation and you did not respond. If you refuse to consent to your child's reevaluation, the education agency may, but is not required, pursue your child's reevaluation by using the mediation and/or due process hearing procedures to seek to override your refusal to consent to your child's reevaluation. As with initial evaluations, your education agency does not violate its obligations under Part B of the *Individual with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) if it declines to pursue the reevaluation in this manner. However, if after at least two attempts to obtain your consent for reevaluation you have not responded, the education agency may proceed with the reevaluation. Your consent is not required before your education agency may review existing data as part of your child's evaluation or a reevaluation, or give your child a test or other evaluation that is given to all children unless, before that test or evaluation, consent is required from all parents of all children. An education agency may not use a parent's refusal to consent to one service or activity regarding initial evaluation for special education services to deny the parent or child any other service, benefit, or activity offered by the education agency for all children, except as required by this part. If you are the parent of a child who is home schooled or placed in a private school at your own expense, and you do not provide your informed written consent for your child's initial evaluation or your child's reevaluation, or you fail to respond to a request to provide your informed written consent, the education agency shall not use its consent override procedures and it is not required to consider your child as eligible to receive equitable services. Your informed written consent or the informed written consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority (age 19) must be obtained prior to an IEP Team meeting before representatives of participating agencies who may be responsible for providing or paying for transition services may be invited to the IEP Team meeting.

TRANSFER OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AT AGE OF MAJORITY

When a child with a disability reaches the age of majority under state law (age 19) that applies to all children (except for a child with a disability who has been determined to be incompetent under state law) the education agency must provide any notice required by this part to both the child and the parents; and all rights accorded to parents under Part B of the IDEA transfer to the child; all rights accorded to parents under Part B of the IDEA transfer to children who are incarcerated in an adult or juvenile state or local correctional institution; and whenever the rights have been transferred, the agency must notify the child and the parents of the transfer of rights.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION

You have the right to an independent educational evaluation at public expense if you disagree with an evaluation obtained by your education agency. However, your education agency may request a due process hearing to show that its evaluation is appropriate. If the final decision is that the evaluation is appropriate, you still have the right to an independent educational evaluation, but not at public expense. If you obtain an independent educational evaluation at private expense, the results of the evaluation must be considered by your education agency (if it meets agency criteria) in any decision made with respect to the provision of a free appropriate public education and may be presented as evidence at a due process hearing. If a due process hearing officer requests an independent educational evaluation as part of a hearing, the cost of the evaluation will not be at your expense. Each education agency shall provide you, on request, information about where an independent educational evaluation may be obtained and the criteria for the independent educational evaluation. Whenever an independent educational evaluation is at public expense, the standards under which the evaluation is obtained, including the location of the evaluation and the qualifications of the examiner, must be the same as the standards that the education agency uses when it conducts an evaluation. A parent is entitled to only one independent educational evaluation at public expense each time the public agency conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STATE COMPLAINT AND DUE PROCESS HEARING PROCEDURES

The regulations for Part B of IDEA set forth separate procedures for state complaints and for due process hearings. As explained below, any individual or organization may file a state complaint alleging a violation of any Part B requirement by an education agency, the ALSDE, or any other public agency. Only you or an education agency may file a due process hearing request on any matter relating to a proposal or a refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a child with a disability, or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child. While staff of the ALSDE generally must resolve a state complaint within a 60-calendar-day timeline, unless the timeline is properly extended, an impartial due process hearing officer must hear a due process hearing (if not resolved through a resolution meeting or through mediation) and issue a written decision within 45-calendar-days after the end of the resolution period, unless the hearing officer grants a specific extension of the timeline at your request or the education agency's request.

STATE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Any individual or organization has a right to file a signed written complaint alleging that a school system has violated the IDEA or 34 CFR Part 300 and the facts on which the statement is based; to present allegation(s) that occurred not more than one year prior to the date that the complaint is received; to submit additional information either orally or in writing about the allegations in the complaint; to a written decision within 60-calendar-days that addresses each allegation in the complaint and contains findings of fact and conclusions and the reasons for the final decision; to an extension of the time limit only if exceptional circumstances exist with respect to a particular complaint; and to procedures for effective implementation of the final decision, if needed, including technical assistance activities, negotiations, and corrective actions to achieve compliance. It is permissible for the timeline to be extended if the parent and the education agency agree to extend the timeline in order to participate in mediation to resolve the state complaint. The education agency will respond to the complaint allegations, at the discretion of the education agency, a proposal to resolve the complaint. An independent onsite investigation will occur as determined appropriate by the ALSDE, Special Education Services (SES) Section.

If requested, the ALSDE, Special Education Services, will provide you with a sample form for filing a state complaint.

You are not required to use the sample form, however your complaint must include: (1) A statement that a public agency has violated a requirement of Part B of the IDEA or of this part; (2) The facts on which the statement is based; (3) The signature and contact information for the complainant; and (4) If alleging violations with respect to a specific child: (a) The name and address of the residence of the child; (b) The name of the school the child is attending; (c) In the case of a homeless child or youth (within the meaning

of Section 725(2) of the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act* (42 U.S.C. 11434a (2)), available contact information for the child, and the name of the school the child is attending; (d) A description of the nature of the problem of the child, including facts relating to the problem; and (e) A proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to the party at the time the complaint is filed.

A party filing a complaint must send it to the SES Section of the ALSDE. The party filing the complaint must forward a copy of the complaint to the LEA or public agency serving the child at the same time the party files the complaint with the ALSDE. If after reviewing the complaint, the SES determines that it includes all of the required information and is signed, the 60-day timeline begins on the workday that the SES received the complaint. A signature requirement is the same that a person would use for any other legal document such as a bank check or signing a contract. Exceptions may be made for persons without the ability to sign their name.

If a written complaint is received that is also the subject of a due process hearing or contains multiple issues of which one or more are part of that hearing, the state must set aside any part of the complaint that is being addressed in the due process hearing until the conclusion of the hearing. However, any issue in the complaint that is not a part of the due process action must be resolved using the time limit and procedures required. If an issue raised in a complaint filed under this section has previously been decided in a due process hearing involving the same parties the due process hearing decision is binding on that issue; and the SEA must inform the complainant to that effect. A complaint alleging a public agency's failure to implement a due process hearing decision must be resolved by the SEA.

STATE MEDIATION PROCEDURES

You have the right to participate in mediation to resolve disagreements under IDEA with an education agency, whether or not you have requested a due process hearing or have filed a state complaint. The voluntary mediation will be scheduled by the ALSDE at no cost to you. A qualified impartial mediator trained in effective mediation techniques and selected by rotation will be provided and each mediation session will be scheduled in a timely manner and held in a location convenient to the parties in the dispute. The ALSDE must have a list of qualified mediators, and the mediators must be knowledgeable of the laws and regulations relating to special education and related services. The mediators may not be employees of the ALSDE or the education agency involved in the education or care of your child and must not have a personal or professional conflict of interest. You may participate without denial or delay of any other rights. If an agreement is reached, a legally binding written agreement that is signed by the parent and a representative of the education agency that has the authority to bind the education agency will state the resolution. All parties sign a confidentiality pledge prior to the beginning of the mediation process to assure confidentiality of mediation discussions and assurance that discussions may not be used as evidence in any later due process hearings or civil proceedings. The mediation agreement is enforceable in any state court of competent jurisdiction or in a district court of the United States. The education agency may develop procedures that offer an opportunity to meet with a disinterested party at a time and location convenient to you if you have chosen not to participate in mediation. The benefits of mediation will be explained by the disinterested party to encourage the use of mediation.

DUE PROCESS HEARING PROCEDURES

You may request a due process hearing regarding the education agency's proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of a free appropriate public education. If you request a hearing, you or your attorney must provide a copy of the written request (that must be kept confidential) to the other party and to the ALSDE. If requested, the ALSDE, Special Education Services Section, will provide you with a sample form for requesting a due process hearing.

You are not required to use the sample form; however, your request must include: (1) The name of the child; (2) The address of the residence of the child or available contact information in the case of a homeless child; (3) The name of the school the child is attending; (4) A description of the nature of the problem including facts relating to the problem that occurred within two years of the date the parent or the education agency knew or should have known about the alleged action that is the basis for

the hearing request; and (5) A proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to you at the time you requested the hearing. The timeline shall not apply to a parent if the parent was prevented from requesting the hearing due to specific misrepresentations by the education agency that it had resolved the problem forming the basis of the written request; or the education agency's withholding of information from the parent that was required under this part to be provided to the parent. You or the education agency may not have a due process hearing until you (or your attorney), or the education agency, files a due process hearing request that includes all of the information listed above.

If after receiving the due process hearing request the SES Section determines that it includes all of the required information and is signed, the due process hearing will be initiated and the timeline begins on the workday received. A signature requirement is the same that a person would use for any other legal document such as a bank check or signing a contract. Exceptions may be made for persons without the ability to sign their name.

The party requesting the hearing shall not be allowed to raise issues at the hearing that were not raised in the written request for a hearing unless the other party agrees otherwise.

The education agency must inform you of any free or low-cost legal and other relevant services available in the area if you request the information or if you or the education agency requests a hearing.

In order for a due process hearing to go forward, the request must be considered sufficient. The due process request will be considered sufficient (to have met the content requirements above) unless the party receiving the due process complaint (you or the education agency) notifies the hearing officer and the other party in writing, within 15-calendar-days of receiving the complaint, that the receiving party believes that the due process complaint does not meet the requirements listed above. Within five calendar days of receiving the notification that the receiving party (you or the education agency) considers a due process request insufficient, the hearing officer must decide if the due process request meets the content requirements, and notify you and the education agency in writing immediately.

You or the education agency may make changes to the hearing request only if the other party approves of the changes in writing and is given the chance to resolve the due process request through a resolution meeting, or no later than five days before the due process hearing begins, the hearing officer grants permission for the changes. If the complaining party makes changes to the due process request, the timelines for the resolution meeting and the time period for resolution start again on the date the amended request is filed.

Within ten calendar days of receiving a copy of your request for a hearing, the education agency will provide you written notice addressing the concerns of the request for hearing, if it has not previously done so. The response must include an explanation of why the education agency proposed or refused to take the action raised in the due process request, a description of other options that the child's IEP Team considered and the reasons why those options were rejected, a description of each evaluation procedure, assessment, record, or report the education agency used as the basis for the proposed or refused action, and a description of the other factors that are relevant to the educational agency's proposed or refused action. However, providing this information does not prevent the education agency from asserting that the due process request was insufficient.

If the education agency files the due process hearing request, you must, within ten calendar days of receiving the request, send the education agency a response that specifically addresses the issues in the complaint.

Prior to the opportunity for a hearing, the education agency, within 15-calendar-days of receiving the parents' request for a hearing, will convene a meeting with the parents and the relevant member or members of the IEP Team (as determined by the education agency and the parent), including a member who has decision-making authority on behalf of the education agency, and who have specific knowledge of the facts identified in the written request for a hearing. The education agency may not include an attorney of the education agency if an attorney does not accompany the parent. The purpose of the meeting is for the parents of the child to discuss their hearing issues and the facts that form the basis of the hearing request.

The education agency is then provided the opportunity to resolve the hearing issues unless the parents and the education agency agree in writing to waive such meeting or agree to use the mediation process. If a resolution is reached at the resolution meeting or mediation, the parties shall execute a legally binding agreement that is signed by both the parent and a representative of the education agency who has the authority to bind the education agency. This agreement is enforceable in any state court of competent jurisdiction or in a district court of the United States. If the parties execute such an agreement, a party may void such agreement within three business days of the agreement's execution. If the education agency has not resolved the hearing issues to the satisfaction of the parents within 30-days of the receipt of the written request for a hearing, the hearing may occur and all the applicable timelines for a hearing will commence. A final hearing decision will be reached within 45-calendar-days after the hearing timeline commences (i.e., after the 30-day timeline to resolve the issues has expired) unless the hearing officer grants a specific extension at the request of either party. A copy of the decision is mailed to each of the parties.

Except where you and the education agency have both agreed to waive the resolution process or to use mediation, failure of the parent to participate in the resolution meeting will delay the timelines for the resolution process and the due process hearing until the parent's agree to participate in a meeting. If after making reasonable efforts and documenting such efforts, the education agency is notable to obtain the parent's participation in the resolution meeting, the education agency may, at the end of the 30-calendar-day resolution period, request that a hearing officer dismiss your due process request. Documentation of such efforts must include a record of the education agency's attempts to arrange a mutually agreed upon time and place, such as detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls; copies of correspondence sent and any responses received; and detailed records of visits made to the home or place of employment and the results of those visits. If the education agency fails to hold the resolution meeting within 15-calendar-days of receiving notice of the parent's due process request or fails to participate in the resolution meeting, the parent may ask a hearing officer to order that the 45-calendar-day due process hearing timeline begin.

If the parent and the education agency agree in writing to waive the resolution meeting, then the 45-calendar-day timeline for the due process hearing starts the next day. After the start of mediation or the resolution meeting and before the end of the 30-calendar-day resolution period, if the parent and the education agency agree in writing that no agreement is possible, then the 45-calendar-day timeline for the due process hearing starts the next day. If the parent and the education agency agree to use the mediation process, at the end of the 30-calendar-day resolution period both parties can agree in writing to continue the mediation until an agreement is reached. However, if either party withdraws from the mediation process, then the 45-calendar-day timeline for the due process hearing starts the next day.

At a minimum a hearing officer must not be an employee of the state education agency or the local education agency that is involved in the education or care of the child or any person having a personal or professional interest that would conflict with his or her objectivity in the hearing. A person who otherwise qualifies to conduct a hearing is not an employee of the education agency solely because he or she is paid by the education agency to serve as a hearing officer. He or she must possess the knowledge and the ability to: understand the provisions of the IDEA, federal and state regulations pertaining to the IDEA, and legal interpretations by federal and state courts; conduct hearings in accordance with appropriate, standard legal practice; and render and write decisions in accordance with appropriate, standard legal practice.

Each education agency shall keep a list of the persons who serve as due process hearing officers. The list must include a statement of the qualifications of each of those persons.

Any party to a hearing has the right to be accompanied and advised by counsel and by individuals with special knowledge or training with respect to the problems of children with disabilities except state law prohibits non-attorney representation; present evidence and confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses; prohibit the introduction of any evidence at the hearing that has not been disclosed to that party at least five business days before the hearing; obtain a written or electronic verbatim record of the hearing; and obtain written, or at the option of the parents, electronic findings of fact and decisions at no cost.

In addition, you have the right to have the child present, open the hearing to the public, and have the hearing conducted at a time and place that is reasonably convenient to you at no cost. At least five business days prior to the hearing, each party shall disclose to all other parties all evaluations completed by that date and the recommendations based on the offering party's evaluation that the party intends to use at the hearing. A hearing officer may prevent any party that fails to comply with this requirement from introducing the relevant evaluations or recommendations at the hearing without the consent of the other party.

CIVIL ACTION

The decision of the hearing officer is final except that any party aggrieved by the findings and decision made in a due process hearing has the right to bring a civil action in any state court of competent jurisdiction or in a district court of the United States without regard to the amount in controversy. An aggrieved party must file a notice of intent to file a civil action with all parties to the hearing within 30-calendar-days upon receipt of the decision of the hearing officer. A civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction must be filed within 30 days of the filing of the notice of intent to file a civil action.

A hearing officer's decision on whether the child received a free appropriate public education must be based on substantive grounds. In matters alleging a procedural violation, a hearing officer may find that the child did not receive free appropriate public education only if the procedural inadequacies interfered with the child's right to free appropriate public education, significantly interfered with the parent's opportunity to participate in the decision-making process regarding the provision of free appropriate public education to the child, or caused a deprivation of an educational benefit.

None of the provisions described above can be interpreted to prevent a hearing officer from ordering an education agency to comply with the procedural safeguards requirements.

Nothing in this part should be interpreted to prevent the parent from submitting a separate due process hearing request on an issue separate from a due process request already filed.

CHILD'S STATUS DURING PROCEEDINGS

During the pendency of the resolution period, a due process hearing, or judicial proceeding, unless you and the state or your education agency agree otherwise, the child must remain in his or her current educational placement. If the hearing officer agrees with the parent that a change of placement is appropriate, that placement must be treated as an agreement between the state and the parent.

If the hearing involves an application for initial admission to public school, the child, with parental consent, must be placed in the public school until the completion of all the proceedings. If the hearing involves an application for initial services under Part B from a child transitioning from Part C to Part B and is no longer eligible for Part C services because the child turned three, the education agency is not required to provide the Part C services that the child was receiving. If the child is found eligible for special education and related services under Part B, and the parent consents to the initial provision of special education and related services, then the educational agency must provide those special education and related services that are not in dispute. However, if a parent requests a due process hearing regarding a disciplinary action, placement remains in the alternative education setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the time period unless the parent and the education agency agree otherwise. A request for expedited hearing for discipline matters must occur within 20 school days of the date the hearing is requested, and the hearing officer must make a determination within ten school days after the hearing.

State Enforcement Mechanisms For enforcement of a written agreement reached as a result of mediation or a resolution meeting, the State Education Agency (SEA) will allow other state enforcement mechanisms to seek enforcement of that agreement, provided that use of those mechanisms is not mandatory and does not delay or deny a party the right to seek enforcement of the written agreement in a state court of competent jurisdiction or in a district court of the United States.

AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES

In any action or proceeding brought under Part B of the IDEA, the court may award reasonable attorneys' fees to a prevailing party who is the parent of a child with a disability; or to a prevailing party who is a state or local education agency against the attorney of a parent who files a hearing request or court case that is frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation; or against the attorney of a parent who continued to litigate after the litigation clearly became frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation; or to a prevailing state or local education agency against the attorney of a parent, or against the parent if the parent's request or subsequent cause of action was presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation. The fee shall be based on rates prevailing in the community in which the action or proceeding arose for the kind and quality of services furnished.

Attorneys' fees may not be awarded and related costs may not be reimbursed for services performed subsequent to the time of a written offer of settlement to the parent if the offer is made to the parent ten calendar days prior to the hearing; the offer is not accepted by the parent within ten calendar days; and hearing officer or court finds that the hearing decision obtained by the parents was not more favorable to the parents than the offer of settlement. Also, fees may not be awarded for attendance at any IEP Team meeting unless the meeting is convened as a result of the hearing officer's decision or court action. However, an award of attorneys' fees and related costs may be made to a parent who is the prevailing party and who was substantially justified in rejecting the settlement offer. A resolution meeting is not considered an administrative hearing or court action for purposes of the attorney's fees provisions.

The amount of attorneys' fees awarded may be reduced if the parent or parent's attorney, during the course of the action or proceeding, unreasonably protracted the final resolution of the controversy; the amount of the attorneys' fees otherwise authorized to be awarded unreasonably exceeds the hourly prevailing rate in the community for similar services by attorneys of reasonably comparable skill, reputation, and experience; the time spent and legal services furnished were excessive considering the nature of the action or proceedings; or the attorney representing the parent did not provide to the education agency the appropriate information in the due process hearing request. The preceding items will not apply in any action or proceeding if the court finds that the state or local education agency unreasonably protracted the final resolution of the action or proceeding or there was a violation of these rules.

ACCESS TO RECORDS

Your education agency must permit you to inspect and review all education records of your child that are collected, maintained, or used by the participating agency under Part B of the IDEA. The participating agency must comply with a request without unnecessary delay and before any meeting regarding an individualized education program, or hearing relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of a free appropriate public education, or resolution session is conducted and in no case more than 45 days after the request has been made. Your right to inspect and review records includes your right to a response from the participating agency to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the records; to have your representative inspect and review the records; and to request that the participating agency provide copies of the records containing the information if failure to provide those copies would effectively prevent you from exercising your right to inspect and review the records. The participating agency may not charge a fee to search for or to retrieve information under this part, but may charge a fee for copies of records which are made for you under this part if the fee does not effectively prevent you from exercising your right to inspect and review those records. The agency may presume that you have authority to inspect and review records unless the agency has been advised that you do not have the authority under applicable state law governing such matters as guardianship, or separation, and divorce. If any education record includes information on more than one child, you may review only the information relating to your situation or be informed of that specific information. The participating agency must provide you, on request, a list of the types and locations of education records collected, maintained, or used by the participating agency. The participating agency must keep a record of parties obtaining access to education records collected, maintained, or used (except access by parents and authorized employees of the participating agency), including the name of the party, the date access was given, and the purpose for which the party is authorized to review the records.

RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN

Education agencies must afford to the child, rights of privacy similar to those afforded to parents regarding records taking into consideration the age of the child and type and severity of the disability. Although the rights of parents under the IDEA transfer to the child at the age of majority (age 19), the rights of parents regarding educational records under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) at 34 CFR Part 99 transfer to the child at age 18.

CONSENT FOR DISCLOSURE OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

Your consent must be obtained before personally identifiable information is disclosed to parties other than officials of participating agencies. Except under the circumstances below, your consent is not required before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies for purposes of meeting a requirement of Part B of the IDEA.

Your consent or the consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of 19 must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies responsible for providing or paying for transition services. Also, if your child is in or is going to go to a private school that is not located in the same LEA you reside in, your consent must be obtained before any personally identifiable information about your child is released between officials in the LEA where the private school is located and officials in the LEA where you reside.

AMENDMENT OF RECORDS AS PARENT'S REQUEST

If you believe that information in your child's education records collected, maintained, or used under Part B of the IDEA is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of the child, you may request that the education agency that maintains the information amend the information. The participating agency must decide whether to amend the information in accordance with your request within a reasonable period of time of receipt of the request. If the participating agency decides to refuse to amend the information in accordance with the request, it must inform you of the refusal and advise you of your right to a hearing. The participating agency shall, on request, provide an opportunity for a hearing, which complies with FERPA procedures, to challenge information in your child's education records to ensure that it is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights. If, as a result of the hearing, it is determined that the information is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the child, the participating agency must amend the information accordingly and so inform you in writing. If, as a result of the hearing, it is determined that the information is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights, the participating agency must inform you of the right to place in the records it maintains on your child, a statement commenting on the information or setting forth any reasons for disagreeing with the decision of the participating agency. Any explanation placed in the records must be maintained by the participating agency as part of the record as long as the record or the contested portion is maintained by the participating agency. If the records or the contested portion are disclosed by the participating agency to any party, the explanation must also be disclosed to the party.

DESTRUCTION OF INFORMATION

You must be informed by the public agency when personally identifiable information collected, maintained, or used under Part B of the IDEA is no longer needed to provide education services to your child. The information must be destroyed at your request. However, a permanent record of a student's name, address, and phone number, his or her grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed may be maintained without time limitation. Information must be destroyed in a manner that maintains confidentiality.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ENROLLED BY THEIR PARENTS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHEN FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION IS AT ISSUE

Part B of the IDEA does not require an LEA to pay for the cost of education, including special education and related services, of your child with a disability at a private school or facility if the LEA made FAPE

available to your child and you choose to place the child in a private school or facility. However, the public agency where the private school is located must include your child in the population whose needs are addressed under the Part B provisions regarding children who have been placed by their parents in a private school. Disagreements between the parents and the public agency regarding the availability of a program appropriate for the child and the question of financial reimbursement, are subject to the due process procedures. If the parents of a child with a disability who previously received special education and related services under the authority of an public agency enroll the child in a private elementary or secondary school without the consent of or referral by the public agency, a court or a hearing officer may require the agency to reimburse the parents for the cost of that enrollment if the court or hearing officer finds that the agency had not made a free appropriate public education available to the child in a timely manner prior to that enrollment. The cost of reimbursement may be reduced or denied if at the most recent IEP meeting that the parents attended before removal of the child from the public agency, the parents did not inform the IEP Team that they were rejecting the placement proposed by the public agency to provide a free appropriate public education to their child, including stating their concerns and their intent to enroll their child in a private school at public expense; or at least ten business days (including any holidays that occur on a business day) prior to the removal of the child from the public agency, the parents did not give written notice to the public agency that they were rejecting the offered placement; or prior to the parents' removal of the child, the public agency informed the parents of its intent to evaluate the child (including a statement of the purpose of the evaluation that was appropriate and reasonable), but the parents did not make the child available for such evaluation; or a judicial finding of unreasonableness with respect to actions taken by the parents is found. **EXCEPTION:** The cost of reimbursement shall not be reduced or denied for a parent's failure to provide such notice if the school prevented the parent from providing such notice, the parent had not received this document, or compliance with this requirement would likely result in physical harm to the child; and may in the discretion of a court or hearing officer not be reduced or denied for failure to provide such notice if the parent is not literate and cannot write in English; or compliance would likely result in serious emotional harm to the child.

DISCIPLINE

Authority of School Personnel

School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether a change in placement, consistent with the other requirements of this section, is appropriate for a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct.

School personnel under this section may remove a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct from his or her current placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspension, for not more than ten consecutive school days (to the extent those alternatives are applied to children without disabilities), and for additional removals of not more than ten consecutive school days in that same school year for separate incidents of misconduct (as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement).

After a child with a disability has been removed from his or her current placement for ten school days in the same school year, during any subsequent days of removal, the education agency must provide services to the child with a disability who is removed from the child's current placement. The child must continue to receive educational services, so as to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP, and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, and behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.

For disciplinary changes in placement that would exceed ten consecutive school days, if the behavior that gave rise to the violation of the school code is determined not to be a manifestation of the child's disability, school personnel may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to children without disabilities, except that the child must continue to receive educational services. The educational services may be provided in an interim alternative setting.

An education agency is only required to provide services during periods of removal to a child with a disability who has been removed from his or her current placement for ten school days or less in that school year, if it provides services to a child without disabilities who is similarly removed.

After a child with a disability has been removed from his or her current placement for ten school days in the same school year, if the current removal is for not more than ten consecutive school days and is not a change of placement, school personnel, in consultation with at least one of the child's teachers, determine the extent to which services are needed so as to enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP. If the removal is a change of placement, the child's IEP Team determines appropriate services.

Change of Placement Because of Disciplinary Removals

The child's IEP Team determines the interim alternative educational setting for services. For purposes of removals of a child with a disability from the child's current educational placement, a change of placement occurs if the removal is for more than ten consecutive school days, including partial school days of a half day or more, or the child has been subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because the series of removals total more than ten school days in a school year, because the child's behavior is substantially similar to the child's behavior in previous incidents of misconduct that resulted in the series of removals, and because of such additional factors as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the child has been removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another. The education agency (a minimum of an administrator and the student's special education teacher) determines on a case-by-case basis whether a pattern of removals constitutes a change of placement. This determination is subject to review through due process and judicial proceedings.

Notification

On the date on which the decision is made to make a removal that constitutes a change of placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the education agency must notify the parents of that decision, and provide the parents with a copy of the *Special Education Rights*.

Manifestation Determination

1. Within ten school days of any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the education agency, the parent, and relevant members of the child's IEP Team (as determined by the parent and the education agency) must review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine if the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability, or if the conduct in question was the direct result of the education agency's failure to implement the IEP.
2. The conduct must be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability if the education agency, the parent, and relevant members of the child's IEP Team determine that either condition is met.
3. If the education agency, the parent, and relevant members of the child's IEP Team determine that there was a failure to implement the IEP, the education agency must take immediate steps to remedy those deficiencies.

Determination that Behavior was a Manifestation If the education agency, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP Team make the determination that the conduct was a manifestation of the child's disability, the IEP Team must:

1. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment, unless the education agency had conducted a functional behavioral assessment during the previous 18 months before the behavior that resulted in the change of placement occurred, and implement a behavioral intervention plan for the child, or
2. If a behavioral intervention plan already has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior, and
3. Return the child to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent and the education agency agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

Special Circumstances School personnel may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the child’s disability, if the child:

1. Carries a weapon to or possesses a weapon at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education or an education agency,
2. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at School, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education or an education agency, or
3. Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education or an education agency.

Definitions For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

1. Controlled substance means a drug or other substance identified under schedules I, II, III, IV, or V in Section 202(c) of the *Controlled Substances Act* (21 U.S.C. 812(c)).
2. Illegal drug means a controlled substance, but does not include a controlled substance that is legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health-care professional or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under that Act or under any other provision of Federal law.
3. Serious bodily injury has the meaning given the term “serious bodily injury” under paragraph (3) of subsection (h) of Section 1365 of title 18, *United States Code*.
4. Weapon has the meaning given the term “dangerous weapon” under paragraph (2) of the first subsection (g) of Section 930 of title 18, *United States Code*.

Appeal The parent of a child with a disability who disagrees with any decision regarding disciplinary placement or the manifestation determination, or an LEA that believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or others, may appeal the decision by requesting a due process hearing.

Authority of Hearing Officer A hearing officer hears and makes a determination regarding an appeal under this section. In making the determination, the hearing officer may return the child with a disability to the placement from which the child was removed if the hearing officer determines that the removal was a violation of disciplinary requirements, or that the child’s behavior was a manifestation of the child’s disability, or order a change of placement of the child with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days if the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others. The procedures may be repeated, if the education agency believes that returning the child to the original placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others.

Expedited Due Process Hearing Whenever a hearing is requested, the parents or the education agency involved in the dispute must have an opportunity for a due process hearing.

1. The Department of Education is responsible for arranging the expedited due process hearing due to disciplinary action, which must occur within 20 school days of the date the hearing request is filed. The hearing officer must make a determination within ten school days after the hearing.
2. Unless the parents and education agency agree in writing to waive the resolution meeting, or agree to use the mediation process, a resolution meeting must occur within seven calendar days of receiving notice of the due process hearing request, and
3. The due process hearing may proceed unless the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties within 15 calendar days of the receipt of the due process hearing request.
4. The decisions on expedited due process hearings are appealable.

Placement During Appeals When an appeal has been made by either the parent or the educational agency, the child must remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the time period, whichever occurs first, unless the parent and education agency agree otherwise.

Protections for Children Not Determined Eligible for Special Education and Related Services

A child who has not been determined to be eligible for special education and related services under this part and who has engaged in behavior that violated a code of student conduct, may assert any of the protections provided for in this part if the education agency had knowledge, as specified below, that the child was a child with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred.

A public agency must be deemed to have knowledge that a child is a child with a disability if before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred if:

1. The parent of the child expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of the appropriate educational agency, or a teacher of the child, that the child is in need of special education and related services,
2. The parent of the child requested an evaluation of the child, or
3. The teacher of the child, or other personnel of the education agency, expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child directly to the director of special education of the agency or to other supervisory personnel of the agency.

Exception A public agency would not be deemed to have knowledge if the parent of the child has not allowed an evaluation of the child, or has refused services under this part, or the child has been evaluated and determined to not be a child with a disability under this part.

Conditions that Apply if No Basis of Knowledge

1. If a public agency does not have knowledge that a child is a child with a disability prior to taking disciplinary measures against the child, the child may be subjected to the disciplinary measures applied to children without disabilities who engage in comparable behaviors.
2. If a request is made for an evaluation of a child during the time period in which the child is subjected to disciplinary measures, the evaluation must be conducted in an expedited manner. Until the evaluation is completed, the child remains in the educational placement determined by school authorities, which can include suspension or expulsion without educational services.
3. If the child is determined to be a child with a disability, taking into consideration information from the evaluation conducted by the education agency and information provided by the parents, the education agency must provide special education and related services in accordance with this part.

Referral to and Action by Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities

Nothing in this part prohibits an agency from reporting an alleged crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities or prevents state law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal and state law to crimes committed by a child with a disability.

Whenever law enforcement or judicial authorities are contacted by a public agency personnel reporting an alleged crime committed by a child with a disability, the IEP Team must, within two weeks of the child's return to school setting:

1. If a public agency does not have knowledge that a child is a child with a disability prior to taking disciplinary measures against the child, the child may be subjected to the disciplinary measures applied to children without disabilities who engage in comparable behaviors. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment unless the LEA has conducted a functional behavioral assessment during the previous 18 months before the behavior that resulted in the change of placement occurred, and implement a behavioral intervention plan for the child, or
2. If the behavioral intervention plan already has been developed, review the behavioral intervention and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior.

Transmittal of Records

1. An agency reporting an alleged crime committed by a child with a disability must ensure that education and disciplinary records of the child are transmitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom the agency reports the crime.
2. An agency reporting an alleged crime under this section may transmit copies of the child's special education and disciplinary records only to the extent that the transmission is permitted by the FERPA.

SPECIAL EDUCATION RIGHTS UNDER THE IDEA

Purpose(s) of this form:

- To fully inform the parent or student (age 19 and older) of his/her rights.

When to use this form:

- The parent or student (age 19 and older) must be given a copy of the rights.
- When a student is initially referred for an evaluation or when the parent requests an evaluation.
- Upon receipt of the first state complaint in a school year.
- Upon receipt of the first due process hearing request in a school year.
- Not later than the date on which the decision is made to take disciplinary action resulting in a change of placement.
- Upon request by the parent.
- At least once a year (the ALSDE is requesting that LEAs provide a copy of the *Special Education Rights* at the annual IEP Team meeting and document the date provided on the signature page of the IEP).

NOTE: LEAs are no longer required to provide a copy of *Special Education Rights* with each notice.

Things to remember when completing this form:

- Take time to explain these rights to the parent so that they make an informed decision.
- Explain the rights that apply at the time of the meeting.

NOTICE AND INVITATION TO A MEETING/CONSENT FOR AGENCY PARTICIPATION

To: _____ Date Notice Sent: _____
Name of Parent or Guardian

This notice is to invite you to a meeting for student _____ DOB : _____ to be held:

Meeting Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Determine if Referral requires Evaluation (Provide Special Education Rights)
Discuss the Need for Additional Data Collection
Determine Initial or Continued Eligibility
Develop an Initial IEP
Develop an Annual IEP or Revise the current IEP
Conduct an Annual Review of the current IEP
Discuss Transition / Postsecondary Services
Conduct Manifestation Determination
Develop Functional Behavioral Assessment Plan
Develop/Revise/Discuss Behavioral Intervention Plan
Conduct a Resolution Session
Other Reason to meet:

The following people will be invited to meet with us:

- Local Education Agency (LEA) Representative
Someone Who Can Interpret the Instructional Implications of the Evaluation Results
General Education Teacher
Special Education Teacher
Parent
Student notified on _____ via _____
Career / Technical Representative
Agency Representative(s) for Transition (with parental consent / student age 19)
Agency Name(s): _____
Agency notified via: _____ on _____
Other: _____
Other: _____

Because your input is important to us, we encourage you to make every effort to attend this meeting. If you would like to participate by phone, please call the person below to make arrangements. You may bring other people whom you feel will be helpful to you in this process. If your child is transitioning from Early Intervention, you may request that an invitation be sent to the Early Intervention Program for the initial IEP Team meeting.

If you require notice and an explanation of your rights in your native language, the LEA/agency will accommodate you to ensure your understanding. You are fully protected under the rights addressed in your copy of the Special Education Rights document. If you want another copy of your rights, have any questions, wish to arrange a conference, or need additional accommodations please contact:

_____ at _____ or _____
Contact Name Telephone number Email me

FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL - Documented attempts to contact parent/student (age 19) for the IEP Team meeting.

Results of 1st Attempt: _____
2nd Attempt Date: _____ Action / Result: _____

PARENT - STUDENT (Age 19 or older)

Please check one of the following boxes, sign, date, and return this form to the contact (above) before: _____

- I WILL be able to meet with you on the scheduled date and time.
I will NOT be able to meet on the scheduled date and time, but would like to reschedule, please contact me at _____
I will NOT be able to attend the meeting. The meeting may proceed without me.

Please check one of the following boxes if agency(s) were invited (see if checked above):

- I Give consent for the representative(s) from the other transition agency(s) to attend the meeting. (Excluding the following agency(s): _____)
I DO NOT give consent for representative(s) from the other transition agency(s) to attend the meeting.

Signature of Parent or Student (Age 19) _____ Date _____

NOTICE AND INVITATION TO A MEETING/CONSENT FOR AGENCY PARTICIPATION

Purpose(s) of this form:

- To inform the parent and student (age 19 and older) of the purpose(s) of the IEP Team meeting and provide the parent or student (age 19 and older) with an opportunity to attend, participate by phone, etc.
- To document that the parent or student (age 19 and older) has been invited to an IEP Team meeting within a time frame that allows the parent or student (age 19 and older) time to respond and reschedule if necessary.
- To provide documentation that all required persons were invited to the meeting, including the student at age 16 and older. Students who will be age 16 during the implementation of the IEP must be invited to the IEP Team meeting even if they are age 15 at the time of the IEP Team meeting.
- To verify that the parent or student (age 19 and older) has received an invitation in their native language.
- To document attempts to contact the parent or student (age 19 and older) regarding the meeting.
- To inform the parent or student (age 19 and older) who to call to make arrangements if they would like to participate in the meeting by phone.
- To inform the parent of the right to have a representative attend the initial IEP Team meeting for a child transitioning from EI to preschool. The parent is responsible for informing the public agency that they want a representative from EI to be invited.
- To document consent of the parent or student (age 19 and older) to include or exclude other agency representatives who may be responsible for providing or paying for transition services if one of the purposes of the meeting is to consider transition services.
- To document an annual review of the current IEP.
- To document that the parent has been invited to the annual review meeting.

When to use this form:

- Send this form to the parent or student (age 19 and older) every time an IEP Team meeting is scheduled.
- Purposes of meetings:
 - Determine if Referral requires Evaluation
 - Discuss the Need for Additional Data Collection
 - Determine Initial or Continued Eligibility
 - Develop Initial IEP
 - Develop Annual IEP or Revise Current IEP
 - Conduct Annual Review of the Current IEP
 - Discuss Transition/Postsecondary Services
 - Conduct Manifestation Determination
 - Develop Functional Behavioral Assessment Plan
 - Develop/Revise Behavioral Intervention Plan
 - Conduct a Resolution Session
 - Other

Things to remember when completing this form:

- The date, time, and location of the meeting should be documented at the top of the page.
- Check all possible purposes of the meeting before sending the invitation. Purpose(s) of the meeting for which the parent or student (age 19 and older) have not been provided in the invitation may not be addressed unless the parent or student (age 19 and older) is in attendance and agrees to discuss the unchecked item(s). If this occurs it should be documented.
- Invite all IEP Team members required for the purpose(s) of the meeting.
- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) requests to participate by phone, ask the parent or student (age 19 and older) to check **I WILL BE ABLE TO MEET WITH YOU**. Ensure that you have the number where the parent or student (age 19 and older) can be reached at the scheduled time of the meeting.
- Include a copy of the *Special Education Rights* if the purpose of the meeting is to determine if the referral requires an evaluation.
- Type the name of the person signing as the education agency official in the space provided when completing the form in SETS.

NOTICE AND INVITATION TO A MEETING/CONSENT FOR AGENCY PARTICIPATION

(Continued)

- Record the date that the invitation was sent to the parent and student (age 19 and older) and the results. If there is no response (or if the response is to reschedule the meeting) after the first invitation is sent, a second contact must be made and the date of the contact recorded on this form. The action and results of the second contact must be documented.
- **Agency representatives for transition who may be providing or paying for transition services may be invited to the IEP meeting but cannot attend without consent from the parent or student (age 19 and older).**

What happens next:

- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) checks “**I WILL** be able to meet with you on the scheduled date and time,” no further action is required with this form. If the parent or student (age 19 and older) checks this option, but does not attend the meeting or is not available by phone as scheduled, the meeting may be held with the other required IEP Team members.
- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) checks “**I WILL NOT** be able to meet on the scheduled date and time, but would like to reschedule, please contact me at _____,” document this in the **Results** space and reschedule the meeting at mutually agreed upon time and place.
- Send a new invitation with the new meeting date.
- This invitation must be sent/given to the parent (age 19 and older) and may be followed-up with a phone call, email, etc. A second invitation (if needed) should be sent/given to the parent or student in an attempt to schedule the meeting and may be followed-up with a phone call, email, etc.
- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) checks “**I WILL NOT** be able to attend the meeting. The meeting may proceed without me,” hold the meeting as scheduled with the other required IEP Team members.
- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) does not respond to two attempts (first and second notice) the public agency may conduct the meeting.

Note: Please remember to schedule meetings at a mutually agreed upon time and place.

- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) checks, “**I GIVE CONSENT** for the representative from the other transition agency(s) to attend the meeting, the public agency should invite the transition agency representatives to attend the meeting. If the parent or student (age 19 and older) checks this option but the transition agency representatives do not attend the meeting as scheduled, the meeting may be held with the other required IEP Team members.
- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) checks “**I DO NOT** give consent for representatives from the other transition agency(s) to attend the meeting,” the transition agency representative may not be invited to attend the meeting.
- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) does not respond to two attempts (first and second invitation) regarding consent for transition agency representatives to attend the meeting the public agency may conduct the meeting but must not invite the agency representatives for transition.
- If the purpose of the meeting was to determine if the referral requires evaluation and the referral is accepted, the parent or student (age 19 and older) must sign the *Notice and Consent for Initial Evaluation* before any evaluation(s) may be conducted.

Note: The date the public agency receives a signed *Notice and Consent for Initial Evaluation* begins the 60-calendar day timeline to complete the initial evaluation.

- If the purpose of the meeting was to determine initial or continued eligibility, a copy of the *Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services* must be provided to the parent and student (age 19 and older).
- If the purpose of the meeting was to discuss reevaluation, the parent and student (age 19 and older) must also be provided a copy of the *Notice of IEP Team’s Decision Regarding Reevaluation*. If additional data collection/evaluation(s) are required, the parent or student (age 19 and older) must then sign the *Notice and Consent for Reevaluation* form unless two attempts to gain consent with no response can be documented.

**NOTICE AND INVITATION TO A MEETING / CONSENT
FOR AGENCY PARTICIPATION**

(Continued)

- If the purpose of the meeting was to develop the initial IEP, the parent or student (age 19 and older), must receive an invitation to the meeting using the *Notice and Invitation to a Meeting/Consent for Agency Participation*. The first invitation must be sent/given to the parent or student (age 19 and older) and may be followed up with a phone call, email, etc. A second invitation if needed should be sent/given to the parent or student in an attempt to schedule the meeting and may be followed up with a phone call, email, etc.
- If the purpose of the meeting was to conduct the annual review of the current IEP, the IEP Team must schedule an annual review meeting, but may not rewrite the IEP at that time. A meeting must be held by the annual review date to review the current IEP that will not expire until the TO date. If the purpose of the meeting was to develop/review/revise the IEP, the IEP Team will develop the annual IEP, review or revise the current IEP. The parent or student (age 19 and older) must receive an invitation to the meeting using the *Notice and Invitation to a Meeting/Consent for Agency Participation*.
- If the purpose of the meeting was to discuss transition/postsecondary services, the student age 16 and older must receive an invitation to the IEP Team meeting. In the state of Alabama, transition must be addressed for students entering ninth grade or at age 15 if the student will turn 16 during the IEP being written/developed.
- If the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a manifestation determination, the LEA, parent, and relevant team members of the IEP Team (as determined by the parent and the LEA) must meet within ten days to review all relevant information regarding the student's behavior and to determine whether the behavior in question is or is not a manifestation of the student's disability.
- If the purpose of the meeting is to Develop/Revise/Discuss Behavioral Intervention Plan, the required IEP Team members must meet to determine the problem behavior, develop positive behavioral supports, strategies, and interventions to reduce occurring behaviors. The IEP Team can meet to discuss and or revise the behavior intervention plan as appropriate.
- If the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a resolution session, the LEA must convene a meeting with the parent and the relevant member or members of the IEP Team who have specific knowledge or facts identified in the due process hearing request. The purpose of the meeting is for the parents of the child to discuss the due process hearing request and the facts that form the basis of the request so that the LEA has the opportunity to resolve the issue.

All notices must be sent to the parent even after the rights have transferred to the student at age 19. The notice and invitation must be sent to the parent or the student (age 19 and older) whichever one has IDEA decision-making rights.

NOTICE OF IEP TEAM'S DECISION REGARDING REEVALUATION

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

IEP TEAM REEVALUATION DECISION

- ADDITIONAL DATA** are needed. AAC pages 503-504
 - To appropriately determine eligibility status.
 - To determine if changes need to be made to the IEP.

- NO ADDITIONAL DATA** are needed.
 - Existing data is sufficient for the IEP Team to determine eligibility status. (Requires the completion of a new *Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services* form.)
 - The current IEP meets the student's needs at this time.
 - The current IEP needs to be revised

BASIS FOR DECISION

EVALUATION PROCEDURES, ASSESSMENTS, RECORDS, AND/OR REPORTS USED TO MAKE DECISION

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Observation | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech | <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental Scales | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Agency Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual | <input type="checkbox"/> Language | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Samples | <input type="checkbox"/> State Assessments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Achievement | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor | <input type="checkbox"/> Discipline Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> Grades | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance Reports | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND WHY THE OPTIONS WERE REJECTED

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ATTENDED AND PARTICIPATED IN THE IEP MEETING

POSITION	IEP TEAM MEMBERS' SIGNATURE	DATE
Parent	AAC page 525 (3)(a-1)	_____
Parent		_____
General Education Teacher	_____	_____
Special Education Teacher	_____	_____
LEA Representative	_____	_____
Someone Who Can Interpret The Instructional Implications Of The Evaluation Results	_____	_____
Student	_____	_____
Career/Technical Education Representative	_____	_____
Other Agency Representative	_____	_____

INFORMATION FROM PEOPLE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

POSITION	NAME	DATE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

My signature below verifies that if you require notice and an explanation of your rights in your native language, the LEA/agency has accommodated you to ensure your understanding. You are fully protected under the rights addressed in your copy of the *Special Education Rights* document. If you want another copy of your rights, have any questions, or wish to arrange a conference, please contact:

_____ at _____
 (Name) (Telephone)

Date Provided/Sent: _____

NOTICE OF IEP TEAM'S DECISION REGARDING REEVALUATION

Purpose(s) of this form:

- To document whether additional data/no additional data are needed to determine the eligibility and/or IEP status.
- To document that the parent and student (age 19 and older) have been informed of the IEP Team's decision regarding reevaluation.

When to use this form:

- When the IEP Team makes a decision that additional/no additional data are needed to determine continued eligibility.
- When the IEP Team makes a decision that additional/no additional data are needed to revise/maintain current services on the IEP.

Things to remember when completing this form:

IEP TEAM REEVALUATION DECISION

- **Additional data are needed.** This decision means that sufficient data are **not** currently available to ensure that the student continues to be eligible for special education services and/or that additional data are necessary to determine if changes need to be made to the IEP.
- **No additional data are needed.** This decision means that existing data (tests, scores, reports, work samples, parent information, observational data, etc.) are sufficient to support continued eligibility in a disability area, to determine that the student is ineligible for special education services, and/or to maintain or revise the current IEP. The IEP Team completes this form and provides a copy of the form to the parent along with a copy of a new *Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services* if reevaluation for continued eligibility is being discussed.

BASIS FOR DECISION

- **Must be completed to reflect the data used to determine whether additional/no additional data were needed.**

DO NOT LEAVE BLANK

Examples of responses if additional data are needed:

- The IEP Team determined that a new evaluation of cognitive ability is needed to obtain a current indication of the student's intellectual performance. Previous evaluations are inconsistent.
- The IEP Team determined that the student has made significant progress and may no longer need specially designed instruction. The IEP Team is requesting a current evaluation.
- The IEP Team determined that the student may be in need of physical therapy and is proposing an evaluation by a physical therapist.
- The student currently receives services in the area of speech or language impairment and the IEP Team suspects the student may have a reading problem and is proposing a formal reading assessment at this time.

Examples of responses if no additional data are needed:

- After reviewing previous eligibility reports, educational data, eligibility determinations, and current educational evaluation data, the IEP Team has determined that the student continues to have a significant disability that has an adverse effect on his/her educational performance.
- The IEP Team has reviewed all existing data (previous eligibility reports, curriculum-based assessments, grades, etc.) and has determined that he/she continues to be in need of specially designed instruction.
- The IEP Team has reviewed the IEP and has determined the IEP is currently appropriate to provide educational benefit.
- The IEP Team has existing evaluation data that documents a need for the IEP to be revised.

NOTICE OF IEP TEAM'S DECISION REGARDING REEVALUATION

(Continued)

EVALUATION PROCEDURES, ASSESSMENTS, RECORDS, AND/OR REPORTS USED TO MAKE DECISIONS

- Check the type of evaluation information that the IEP Team used in making the decision. The IEP Team must have supporting data for any area checked.

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND WHY THEY WERE REJECTED

Examples of responses:

- The IEP Team considered evaluating the student in the area of intelligence but determined that the three previous assessments were consistent and are accurate indicators of his/her functioning at this time.
- The IEP Team considered not evaluating the student and dismissing him/her from special education but wanted confirmation and therefore proposed a comprehensive evaluation.
- The IEP Team determined that more current behavior rating scales were needed for this student with Emotional Disability. The behavior rating scales were not significant. The IEP Team has decided to use the option of continued eligibility at this first reevaluation. The completion of a new *Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services* form is required.
- The student qualifies for both SLD and SLI. The IEP Team has determined that SLD is the area of disability that has the most adverse effect at this time.

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ATTENDED AND PARTICIPATED IN THE IEP MEETING

- IEP Team members that participate in the meeting must sign this page.
- Type in the name of each IEP Team member on the individual signature lines when completing the form in SETS. If an IEP Team member is serving in two positions at the reevaluation meeting (e.g., special education teacher is also serving as someone who can interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results), he/she should sign his/her name by each position he/she is representing. Maintain a printed copy with original signatures to be kept on file. If an IEP Team member participates by phone, state that on the signature line.

INFORMATION FROM PEOPLE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

- If information is submitted from someone unable to attend, that person's position, name, and date the information was received should be reported in the space provided.

What happens next:

If additional data are needed:

- The IEP Team obtains written consent from the parent or student (age 19 and older).
- Additional data are collected.
- At the eligibility meeting, a new *Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services* form must be completed and a copy given/sent to the parent and student (age 19 and older).

If no additional data are needed and the parent or student (age 19 and older) is in agreement (to move forward or if appropriate prior notice was provided on the *Notice and Invitation to a Meeting/Consent for Agency Participation*):

- The IEP Team determines continued eligibility and/or develops the IEP.
- A new *Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services* form must be completed if eligibility was being conducted.

The IEP Team must send the *Notice of IEP Team's Decision Regarding Reevaluation* and the new *Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services* to the parent and student (age 19 and older).

NOTICE AND CONSENT FOR REEVALUATION

Student: _____

The IEP Team met to discuss a reevaluation of your child. After reviewing existing information they have determined that additional data is needed to determine continued eligibility for special education and related services and/or appropriate services.

The reevaluation will include new assessments in the following checked areas:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Observation | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual | <input type="checkbox"/> Language | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Achievement | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental Scales | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |

If you give consent, the reevaluation will be provided to you at no cost. If you fail to respond, the LEA/agency may proceed with the reevaluation after two documented attempts to obtain your consent. If you refuse consent, the LEA/agency may request a mediation and/or a due process hearing.

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOXES, SIGN, AND DATE THE FORM.

- I GIVE PERMISSION** for the reevaluation that has been proposed.
- I DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION** for the reevaluation that has been proposed. Please explain.

Signature of Parent or Student (Age 19)

Date of Signature

My signature below verifies that if you require notice and an explanation of your rights in your native language, the LEA/agency has accommodated you to ensure your understanding. You are fully protected under the rights addressed in your copy of the *Special Education Rights* document. If you have information that can assist in this reevaluation, have questions regarding this reevaluation, wish to schedule a conference, or need another copy of your rights please contact:

Name: _____ at Telephone: _____

Please return this form to: Address _____

Signature of Education Agency Official _____

Date Provided/Sent _____

Results of 1st Attempt

2nd Attempt Date _____ Action _____

Results of 2nd Attempt:

Date Signed Consent Received by Public Agency _____

NOTICE AND CONSENT FOR REEVALUATION

Purpose(s) of this form:

- To obtain consent from the parent or student (age 19 and older) when the IEP Team has determined that additional data are required to:
- Determine continued eligibility status.
- Determine if changes need to be made to the IEP.

When to use this form:

- To obtain parent or student (age 19 and older) consent prior to obtaining any additional data to determine continued eligibility status or to determine if changes need to be made to the IEP.

Things to remember when completing this form:

- Type in the name of the parent or student (age 19 and older) on the signature line when completing the form in SETS. Type in the name of the person signing as the education agency official in the spaces provided when completing the form in SETS. Maintain a printed copy with original signatures to be kept on file.
- Complete the box at the bottom of the page documenting the education agency's attempt(s) to obtain consent. The two attempts documented on the *Notice and Invitation to a Meeting/Consent for Agency Participation* cannot be used as the two attempts to obtain *Notice and Consent for Reevaluation*.
- Document the date the signed consent was received by the public agency.
- A closure rule has been added in SETS so that either "attempt must be completed" when consent cannot be obtained OR date signed Consent received by Public Agency must be completed. One or the other is required (two attempts with results or consent received), but not both.
- Consent is **not** required for assessments that the IEP Team determines appropriate at the IEP meeting for evaluating the goals (i.e., data collection, teacher/text tests, work samples, teacher observations, grades, and state assessments).

What happens next:

- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) checks **I GIVE PERMISSION**, the education agency completes the evaluations.
- If the IEP Team makes two attempts to get parental or student (age 19 and older) consent and the parent or student (age 19 and older) does not respond, the evaluation may be completed. These two attempts may be documented under record review on the eligibility report.
- If the parent or student (age 19 and older) checks **I DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION**, the education agency **may not** proceed with the evaluations. If the parent or student (age 19 and older) refuses to provide consent, the IEP Team has three options to consider:
 - The IEP Team may request that the parent or student (age 19 and older) participate in a conference to discuss his/her decision.
 - The IEP Team may determine that the additional evaluative data is not absolutely necessary in order to make changes to the IEP.
 - The public agency may ask for mediation from the ALSDE or the public agency may initiate a due process hearing in order to have an impartial hearing officer order an evaluation to be conducted over the parent's or student's (age 19 and older) objections.

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL OR REFUSAL TO TAKE ACTION

The IEP Team has met to consider the following, regarding the educational program for:

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

- | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identification | <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> Placement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEA Response to DPH Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

DECISION REGARDING SPECIFIC ACTION PROPOSED OR REFUSED.

It has been decided that action will be taken by the local education agency.

Check one:

- The local education agency will take the proposed action immediately and without undue delay.
- The local education agency's proposed action will be taken in _____ calendar days to afford the parent a reasonable period of time to consider the proposed action.

BASIS FOR DECISION(S)

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND WHY THE OPTIONS WERE REJECTED

THE FOLLOWING EVALUATION PROCEDURES, ASSESSMENTS, RECORDS, AND/OR REPORTS WERE USED IN MAKING THE DECISION

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Observation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grades | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech | <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental Scales | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Agency Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual | <input type="checkbox"/> Language | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Samples | <input type="checkbox"/> State Assessments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Achievement | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor | <input type="checkbox"/> Discipline Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance Reports | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

My signature below verifies that if you require notice and an explanation of your rights in your native language, the LEA/agency has accommodated you to ensure your understanding. You are fully protected under the rights addressed in your copy of the *Special Education Rights* document. If you want another copy of your rights, have any questions, or wish to arrange a conference, please contact:

_____ at _____
 (Name) (Telephone)

 Signature of Education Agency Official

Date Provided/Sent: _____

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL OR REFUSAL TO TAKE ACTION

Purpose(s) of this form:

- To document that prior written notice has been provided to the parent each time the LEA proposes to, or refuses to, initiate or change the identification, evaluation, placement, and/or provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to a student with a disability.
- To document the IEP Team's decision **not** to accept a referral for an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services.
- To document the IEP Team's decision not to provide the special education/related service an IEP Team member is requesting to be included in the IEP.
- To document the IEP Team's decision to change the placement of the student.
- To document that the student will not be returning to school the next school year because the student:
 - o Will be graduating from high school with the Alabama High School Diploma (AHSD).
 - o Will be age 21 prior to August 1 of the next school year.
- To document that the parent and student have been notified that the student who has reached the age of majority (age 19) and is exiting school before age 21 and who has not earned the AHSD, still has the right to receive services to age 21.
- To document the LEA's response to a DPH request when the public agency did not provide a notice prior to the DPH request.
- To document minor changes on an IEP (i.e., misspelled words, grammatical errors). Check with your local special education coordinator for permission to use this process to make minor changes to the IEP.
- To document corrective actions after an internal/ALSDE monitoring review.
- To document that the parent or student (age 19 and older) has revoked consent for the provision of special education services.
- To document the new IEP being proposed.
- To document that an out-of-state IEP is being implemented until such time eligibility is determined in Alabama.
- To document the time frame in which action will be taken by the education agency regarding the stated decision.
- To document that the IEP Team conducted an Annual Review Meeting.

When to use this form:

- To indicate when the stated action will be implemented by the education agency either immediately and without undue delay or a number of calendar days to afford the parent a reasonable period of time to consider the proposed action.
- To indicate to the parent and student (age 19 and older) when the public agency proposes to, or refuses to, initiate or change the identification, evaluation, placement, and/or the provision of a FAPE.
- When the IEP Team has decided not to evaluate the student when the student is initially referred for an evaluation (check Identification and Evaluation).
- When the IEP Team refuses to provide a service requested by an IEP Team member (check Provision of FAPE).
- When the IEP Team is proposing to change the placement of the student (check Placement and Provision of FAPE).
- Whenever the IEP is amended and when an annual IEP is developed.
- To provide prior notice of the student exiting school because of graduating with the Alabama High School Diploma or reaching age 21 prior to August 1 (check Placement and Provision of FAPE).
- To provide documentation to the parent and student who has reached the age of majority (age 19) that the student who is exiting school before age 21 and who has not earned the AHSD, still has the right to receive services to age 21.
- When the IEP Team conducts an annual review of the current IEP.

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL OR REFUSAL TO TAKE ACTION

(Continued)

- To give the completed form to the parent and student (age 19 and older) when a DPH request is received and this form has not been provided prior to the DPH request (check all that apply).
- To document minor changes on an IEP. Seek guidance from the local Special Education Coordinator/Director.
- To document minor corrections found during internal monitoring/ALSDE monitoring. Seek guidance from the local Special Education Coordinator/Director. Examples are as follows:
 - o A required evaluation was administered and considered by the IEP Team or Eligibility Committee, but was omitted from the eligibility report.
 - o A copy of the eligibility report was not given or sent to the parent and student (age 19 and older).
 - o A copy of the IEP was not given or sent to the parent and student (age 19 and older).
 - o The date of birth was recorded incorrectly on the IEP.
- Do **not** use this form to request additional data collection/evaluation. For this request, the IEP Team must meet and document the decision on the *Notice of IEP Team's Decision Regarding Reevaluation*.

Things to remember when completing this form:

- Prior written notice must be provided in a timely manner. In the case of a proposal or refusal to take action this will allow the parent a reasonable time to fully consider the changes and respond to the action before it is implemented.
- Type the name of the person signing as the education agency official in the space provided when completing the form in SETS.

What happens next:

- If action is required by the public agency regarding the decision, the action will be taken in the specified number of calendar days unless the IEP Team and parent agree otherwise that the proposed action will take place immediately without undue delay.
- Even if the parent was in attendance at the meeting you still need to give/send prior written notice to the parent and student (age 19 and older) when the public agency proposes to, or refuses to, initiate or change the identification, evaluation, placement, and/or the provision of a FAPE. This includes when the IEP is developed or reviewed annually and any time the IEP is amended.

Process 3

REEVALUATION TO DETERMINE IF CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE TO THE IEP

Frequently Asked Questions

Reevaluation for IEP Changes

3-1. If a student is SLI for articulation only and is experiencing academic difficulties, does he/she need to go through the PST and interventions before doing further testing?

No. The student has already been determined eligible for special education services and is, therefore, eligible for any service that the IEP Team determines is required after appropriate evaluations have been completed (Process Chart 3). The IEP Team may determine that the reevaluation process (Process Chart 2) would be appropriate to determine if a different disability area more accurately represents the difficulties the child is experiencing.

3-2. How do we document parental participation in a meeting if they participate by phone?

Participation should be documented on hard copy forms and in SETS, on the parent signature line write, "parent participated by phone."

3-4. How do we document the parent chose to participate by phone, but at the time of the meeting they did not answer the phone?

If the parent said they were going to participate in the meeting by phone and did not participate, document that the parent was unavailable by phone and proceed with the meeting.

3-5. What option does a public agency have when a parent does not attend the meeting to complete the parent interview for the adaptive behavior assessment and the public agency did make two attempts to get the parent to attend?

The public agency may try a home visit, parent-teacher conference, telephone interview or other mutually agreed upon arrangements. The public agency must make two attempts to have the parent complete the home version of the adaptive behavior scale within 60 days of receiving parental consent for initial evaluation and document such attempts on the eligibility report. However, the absence of a home version of the adaptive behavior scale must not delay the evaluation determination timeline. If a home version of the adaptive behavior scale is not obtained, a second school version must be completed.

3-6. Can we send the adaptive behavior scale home to be completed?

Yes. The home version may be sent home if it is mutually agreed upon by both the parent or guardian and the public agency and if the scale does not require a face-to-face interview. If a home version of the adapted behavior scale is not completed after two documented attempts, a second school version of the adapted behavior scale must be completed. It is the responsibility of the public agency to ensure that the parent receives the assistance needed to complete the adaptive behavior scale.

3-7. May the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale II be used as a multi-domain instrument to evaluate motor, communication, social, and adaptive skills?

No. The Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale II is a standardized, norm-referenced measure of adaptive behavior skills only. The social, motor, and communication scores are subtests that comprise adaptive behavior on this instrument. Only the total score can be used to determine if a student is eligible for special education services.

3-8. If you get consent for evaluation from a parent in one public agency and the student moves to another public agency, is the consent still in effect?

Yes, if the consent was from another public agency in Alabama.

3-9. May parents revoke their consent for evaluation at any time?

The parent has the right to revoke consent for the evaluation; however, revoking consent does not take away any action that has already occurred. If the parent revokes consent for an evaluation, the public agency has two options:

- a. Accept the parent's justification as valid and do not proceed with any further evaluations.
- b. Request mediation, and/or an impartial due process hearing to override the revocation if the public agency continues to believe the child is a child with a disability who is in need of special education and related services. However, the agency does not violate its obligations for Child Find if it does not pursue the evaluation.

3-10. Who should make the decision as to the battery of tests to be administered when looking at testing specific areas of achievement?

The IEP Team decides which type of testing is needed (e.g. intellectual, achievement, speech) and the psychometrist chooses the most appropriate assessment for the student after reviewing information provided by the IEP Team. The IEP Team may recommend particular instruments to be used.

3-11. How do we document parental participation in a meeting if they participate by phone?

To document parent participation by phone on hard copy forms and in SETS, on the parent signature line write, "parent participated by telephone."

3-12. How do we document the parent chose to participate by telephone but at the time of the meeting they did not answer the telephone?

If the parent said they were going to participate in the meeting by phone and did not participate, document that the parent was unavailable by telephone.

3-13. How do we document parent participation in a meeting if they participated by phone?

To document parent participation on hard copy forms and in SETS, on the parent signature line write, "parent participated by phone."

3-14. How do we document the parent chose to participate by phone, but at the time of meeting they did not answer the phone?

If the parent said they were going to participate in the meeting by phone and did not participate, document that the parent was unavailable by phone.

3-15. A student with an exceptionality area other than SLI has been receiving speech-language services. The child continues to need other special education services, but the IEP Team determines that the child no longer requires speech-language services. What is the process to discontinue the speech- language services only?

Since the child has an exceptionality other than SLI, the IEP Team's decision should be data driven and should be documented on the Profile Page of the IEP. The IEP Team may make such a change at annual IEP meeting/review or through the Amendment Process (follow Process Chart 5, page 113 of *Mastering the Maze*). A *Notice of Proposal or Refusal to Take Action* should also be used to document such a change in services.

3-16. Who are the required members of an IEP Team?

The public agency must ensure that the IEP Team for each child with a disability includes the following:

- a. The parents of a child with disability.
- b. Not less than one regular education teacher of the child if the child is, or may be, participating in the regular education environment. The regular education teacher must, to the extent appropriate, participate in the development, review, and revision of the child's IEP, including assisting in the determination of appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports and other strategies for the child and the determination of supplementary aids and services program modifications, and supports for school personnel.
- c. Not less than one special education teacher of the child, or where appropriate, not less than one special education provider of the child.
- d. A representative of the public agency who:
 - 1) Is qualified to provide, or supervise the provision of, specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities.
 - 2) Is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum.
 - 3) Is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the public agency. The public agency may designate an LEA member of the IEP Team to also serve as the public agency representative, if the criteria for serving as a public agency representative are met.
 - 4) Has the authority to commit agency resources and be able to ensure that IEP services will be provided.
- e. An individual who can interpret the instructional implications evaluation results, who may be a member of the team described in sections (b) through (d) above.
- f. At the discretion of the parent or the agency, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child, including related services personnel, as appropriate. The determination of the knowledge or special expertise of any individual is made by the party who invites the individual to be a member of the IEP Team.
- g. Whenever appropriate, the student with a disability.
- h. Secondary Transition Services Participants. In addition to the participants specified in (a) through (f) above, if a purpose of the meeting is the consideration of the postsecondary goals for the child and the transition services needed to assist the child in reaching those goals, the public agency must invite the child and, with the consent of the parents or a child who has reached the age of majority, a representative of any other agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services. If the child does not attend the IEP Team meeting the public agency must take other steps to ensure that the child's preferences and interests are considered.
- i. Early Intervention Representatives. In the case of a child who was previously served under Part C/EI, an invitation to the initial IEP Team meeting must, at the request of the parent, be sent to the EI service coordinator or other representatives in the EI system to assist with the smooth transition of services.

Note: In Alabama, a representative of career/technical education must be included as a member of the IEP Team for those children with disabilities who have been referred for, or are currently receiving career/technical education.

3-17. Is parental consent required for reevaluation?

Parental consent is not required prior to the IEP Team convening to review existing data and to determine what additional data, if any, is necessary. Parents must be given the opportunity to attend the IEP Team meeting to determine what additional data is needed. If the IEP Team determines that additional data are needed in order to determine continued eligibility, parental consent must be obtained. If the parents do not respond to a request for consent for reevaluation, the public agency may proceed after reasonable efforts (at least two attempts) have been made and documented. The SES suggests these two attempts be documented on the eligibility report under record review.

Parental consent is not necessary if additional data that needs to be obtained is for teacher and related service provider observations, ongoing classroom evaluations, or the administration of or review of the results of adapted or modified assessments that are administered to all children in a class, grade, or school and consent is not required for all.

3-18. How do we document parent participation in a meeting if they participate by phone?

Parent participation is documented on hard copy forms and in SETS, on the parent signature line write, "parent participated by phone."

3-19. How do we document the parent chose to participate by phone, but at the time of the meeting they did not answer the phone?

If the parent said they were going to participate in the meeting by phone and did not participate document that the parent was unavailable by phone.

3-20. Must those invited to the IEP Team meeting be present for the entire IEP meeting?

A member of the IEP Team is not required to attend an IEP Team meeting, in whole or in part, if the parent of a student with a disability or student (age 19 or older) and the public agency agree, in writing, that the attendance of the member is not necessary because the member's area of the curriculum or related services is not being modified or discussed at the meeting.

A member of the IEP Team may be excused from attending an IEP Team meeting, in whole or in part, when the meeting involves a modification to or discussion of the member's area of the curriculum or related services, if the parent, or student (age 19 or older), and the public agency consent to the excusal in writing; and the member submits, in writing to the parent or student (age 19 or older) and the IEP Team, input into the development of the IEP prior to obtaining consent for the excusal of the IEP Team member.

3-21. If service providers such as Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists cannot attend the IEP Team meeting, do they have to get consent in writing to be excused from IEP Team meetings?

No. Only the required public agency IEP Team members must have written consent to be excused from the IEP Team meeting. The required public agency IEP Team members are as follows:

- a. Not less than one regular education teacher of the student (if the student is, or may be, participating in the regular education environment).
- b. Not less than one special education teacher of the student, or where appropriate, not less than one special education provider of the student.
- c. A representative of the public agency who-
- d. Is qualified to provide, or supervise the provision of, specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities; Is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum; Is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the public agency; has the authority to commit agency resources and be able to ensure that IEP services will be provided.
- e. A public agency may designate a public agency member of the IEP Team to also serve as the agency representative, if the above criteria are satisfied.
- f. An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results, who may already be one of the above mentioned IEP Team members. The IEP Team is encouraged to seek input from service providers who do not attend. Each public agency must ensure the student's IEP is accessible to each service provider who is responsible for its implementation and is informed of his or her specific responsibilities related to the implementation of the student's IEP; and, the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided for the student in accordance with the IEP.

3-22. Who can serve as a public agency representative?

Any representative of the public agency who:

- a. Is qualified to provide, or supervise the provision of, specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities.
- b. Is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum.
- c. Is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the public agency.
- d. Has the authority to commit agency resources and ensure that IEP services are provided.

A public agency may designate a public agency member of the IEP Team to serve as the agency representative, if the above criteria are satisfied.

3-23. Must there be a public agency representative present at each IEP Team meeting?

Yes. A representative of the public agency should be in attendance for each IEP Team meeting. However, according to the excusal clause a public agency representative is a member who may be excused. Special Education Services **highly** recommends that public agency representatives attend **all** IEP Team meetings.

3-24. Which regular education teachers should attend the IEP Team meeting?

A regular education teacher who has knowledge of the general education curriculum for the grade the student will be in during the implementation of the IEP and who may be a regular education teacher of the student (if the student is or may be participating in the regular education environment) should participate as a team member in the development, review, and revision of the IEP. If more than one regular education teacher will be working with the student, the public agency representative may designate who will attend the meeting. The IEP Team is encouraged to seek input from teachers who do not attend. Each public agency must ensure that the student's IEP is accessible to each regular education teacher who is responsible for its implementation and each teacher is informed of his or her specific responsibilities related to implementing the student's IEP; and the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided for the student in accordance with the IEP.

3-25. Who should be invited as the regular education teacher for a preschool child with disabilities?

The requirement is to have the teacher of the child. If a child attends a program in the community, a licensed service provider of the child (i.e., Head Start teacher, day care provider, church personnel) must be invited. If there is not a regular teacher of the child, someone who meets state certification requirements such as a kindergarten teacher or other qualified personnel who can provide services to this age group must be invited.

3-26. Preschool teachers are invited to attend IEP Team meetings but may not be able to attend. How do we go about meeting the requirement to have a regular education teacher at the IEP Team meeting?

The requirement is to have the teacher of the child. However, if this person cannot attend the IEP Team meeting, maybe they can participate by conference call. The IEP Team should have input from the teacher of the child. Teacher input may be gained through such methods as the *Natural Environment Observation/ELPP Documentation*, *Family Focus Interview/ELPP Documentation*, teacher records, etc.

3-27. What is the role of the regular education teacher at an IEP Team meeting?

A regular education teacher of the child (if the child is, or may be, participating in the regular education environment) has knowledge of the general education curriculum for the grade the student will be in during the implementation of the IEP and therefore should participate as an IEP Team member in the development, review, and revision of the IEP. The regular education teacher should also assist in the determination of appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports, other strategies for the student, supplementary aids and services, program modifications, and/or accommodations and supports for school personnel, if necessary.

3-28. Which related services provider should be invited to the IEP Team meeting?

Any service provider(s) who is responsible for implementing services identified in the IEP may be invited to the IEP Team meeting. If the service provider(s) does not attend the meeting, the IEP Team should seek input from the service provider(s). The public agency must ensure that the service provider(s) is informed of his or her specific responsibilities related to implementing the student's IEP.

3-29. Can an OT or a PT serve as the special education teacher at an IEP Team meeting?

No. In Alabama, OT and PT are not considered special education (specially designed instruction). Therefore, an OT or a PT may not serve in the capacity of the required special education teacher or special education provider.

3-30. Does a parent and public agency have the option of inviting any individual of their choice to be participants on a student's IEP Team?

The parent or the public agency may include individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student. The determination as to whether an individual has knowledge or special expertise shall be made by the parent or public agency who has invited the individual. The public agency must get consent from the parent or a student who has reached the age of majority to invite transition agency representatives who would be responsible for providing or paying for transition services. The public agency also determines which individuals from the public agency will fill the required IEP Team member's position.

3-31. If the parent indicates on the request to attend an IEP Team meeting that he/she will attend, but then calls the day before the meeting and wants to reschedule, what is the public agency's responsibility?

The public agency has the responsibility to hold the IEP meeting at a mutually agreed upon time and location. Therefore, if the parent informs the public agency before the scheduled meeting that the time, date, or location needs to be changed, the public agency has the responsibility to reschedule the meeting. If after attempts to reschedule with the parent the rescheduling would prohibit the public agency from meeting a timeline (i.e., before the IEP lapses), the public agency should inform the parent that the IEP Team must meet before the specified timeline.

3-32. If the parent indicates on the request to attend an IEP Team meeting that he/she will attend, but then does not come to the meeting, what is the public agency's responsibility?

If the parent checks that he or she will meet as scheduled but does not attend, the meeting may be held as scheduled. Only the purposes of the meeting checked on the *Notice and Invitation to a Meeting/Consent for Agency Participation* form may be discussed.

3-33. What are the requirements for public agencies in regard to parent participation in the IEP Team meeting?

Each public agency must take steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a child with a disability are present at each IEP Team meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate, including notifying the parent of the meeting early enough to ensure that he/she will have an opportunity to attend; and scheduling the meeting at a mutually agreed on time and place. If neither parent can attend an IEP Team meeting, the public agency must use other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual or conference telephone calls or alternative means such as video conferences. A meeting may be conducted without a parent in attendance if the public agency is unable to convince the parent that he/she should attend. In this case, the public agency must keep a record of reasonable efforts (at least two attempts) to arrange a mutually agreed on time and place such as detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls, copies of correspondence sent to the parent and any responses received, and detailed records of visits made to the parent's home or place of employment and the results of those visits. The public agency must take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the proceedings of the IEP Team meeting including arranging for an interpreter for a parent with deafness or whose native language is other than English. The public agency must provide the parent a copy of the child's IEP at no cost to the parent.

3-34. What if a parent continues to check "I want to reschedule a meeting" time after time and the timeline is running out?

Document all attempts to schedule a mutually agreed upon time for an IEP Team meeting. If neither parent can participate in a meeting where a decision is to be made relating to the educational placement of their child, the public agency must use other methods to ensure their participation, including individual or conference telephone calls or a video conference. If rescheduling prohibits the public agency from meeting a specified timeline, the public agency should inform the parent that they must determine eligibility by a certain date or they must have an IEP Team meeting by a certain date before the IEP lapses.

3-35. What is the role of the parent at an IEP Team meeting?

The parent should participate as an equal partner with school personnel in developing, reviewing, and revising the IEP. This is an active role in which the parent (1) provides critical information regarding the strengths of the child and expresses concerns for enhancing the education of the child; (2) participates in discussions about the student's need for special education and related services; and (3) joins with other participants in deciding how the student will be involved in the general education curriculum and participate in state and district-wide assessments, and what services will be provided and in what setting.

3-36. At what age can a student attend the IEP Team meeting?

Whenever appropriate, and at the discretion of the parent, the student with a disability should be invited to attend the IEP Team meeting. The public agency must invite a student with a disability to attend the student's IEP Team meeting if a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals for the student and the transition services needed to assist the student in reaching those goals.

3-37. What must be considered when an IEP is developed, reviewed, or revised?

In developing each student's IEP, the IEP Team must consider the strengths of the student; the concerns of the parent for enhancing the education of the child; the student's preferences and/or interests; the results of the initial or most recent evaluation of the student; and the academic, developmental, and functional needs of the student. The IEP Team must also consider "special instructional factors" for the student each time the IEP is reviewed.

3-38 Does a student continue to receive special education services even though he or she is making A's and B's but may have some areas in the standards where he or she is below grade level?

In order to be eligible for special education, a student must have a disability that has an adverse effect on educational performance and is in need of special education and related services. Educational performance means academic, social/emotional, and/or communication skills. Each public agency must ensure that FAPE is available to any individual student with a disability who needs special education and related services, even though the student has not failed or been retained in a course or a grade, and is advancing from grade to grade. The determination that a student is eligible must be made on an individual basis by the group responsible within the student's public agency for making eligibility determinations.

3-39. If a student qualifies for services in the area of DD in one domain, is that the only domain that may be addressed in the IEP for services?

No. Once the student is eligible for special education services, he or she may receive any service(s) that the IEP Team deems appropriate after appropriate evaluations have been completed.

3-40. At what point in the IEP process is the least restrictive environment (LRE) determined for a student?

The LRE should be determined when the IEP Team meets and identifies the type and amount of services for the student and determines how and where those services will be implemented. The IEP Team must consider each LRE option and move down the continuum to determine the appropriate LRE.

3-41. What information should be included in the profile of a student's IEP.

The profile must include:

- a. The strengths of the student.
- b. Parental concerns for enhancing the student's education.
- c. Student preferences and/or interests that include transition information beginning no later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student turns 16 or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP Team.
- d. The results of the most recent valuations
- e. The academic, development, and functional needs of the student.
- f. Other information.
- g. For a child transitioning from EI to preschool, justify if the IEP will not be implemented on the child's third birthday.

3-42. Should medical information be included in the profile?

Medical information should be included in the profile when it is pertinent to the student's progress and involvement in his or her educational program or if it is a concern of the parent.

3-43. If an area of concern is addressed in the profile, do we need goals for that area?

Any needs addressed on the profile page must be addressed as either a goal or in other components of the IEP. If the student's needs are more than what could realistically be addressed in one academic year, the IEP Team should prioritize the student's needs in the profile.

3-46. Can a student with a disability be in a regular education classroom with different but related work/activities?

Yes.

3-47. Is the goal now for children with severe cognitive delays to spend 80% of their time in the regular education classroom?

The goal is to include all students with disabilities in the regular education environment to the greatest extent appropriate. The LRE is an IEP Team decision that should be based on the individual needs of the student. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has asked states to work **towards** having all students with disabilities spend at least 80% of their time in the regular education environment. This is a goal to work toward. LRE decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis according to the student's individual needs.

3-48. Can you elaborate on the collection of discipline referrals and attendance reports for making data based IEP decisions?

In the case of a student whose behavior impedes the student's learning or the learning of others, positive behavioral interventions and supports, and other strategies to address that behavior should be developed and implemented. If a student has discipline referrals, the IEP Team should consider and discuss the need for behavior goals and/or a behavioral intervention plan (BIP) or other services to address the behavior. If a student has truancy problems, that too should be addressed by the IEP Team.

3-49. If a student has a behavior problem and a BIP will be written, is the BIP considered part of the IEP?

Yes. In the circumstances outlined below:

- a. For a child with a disability whose behavior impedes his/her learning or that of others, and for whom the IEP team has decided a BIP is appropriate.
- b. For a child with a disability whose violation of the code of student conduct is a manifestation of the child's disability, the IEP Team must include a BIP in the child's IEP to address the behavioral needs of the child.

3-50. If a student's behavior in the regular education classroom would significantly impair the learning of others, can the IEP Team determine that placement in the regular education classroom is inappropriate for that student?

The IEP Team is required to consider positive behavioral interventions, and supports, and other strategies to address the behavior of a student with a disability whose behavior impedes his or her learning or the learning of others. The determination of appropriate placement for a student whose behavior is interfering with the education of others requires careful consideration of whether the student can appropriately function in the regular education classroom if provided appropriate behavioral interventions, supports, and strategies. If the student can function in the regular classroom when provided appropriate behavioral interventions, supports, and strategies, placement in a more restrictive environment would be inconsistent with the LRE provisions of the IDEA.

3-51. Should the bus driver be aware of the IEP?

If **Yes** is checked regarding the student's need for transportation accommodations or modifications, a representative from the Transportation Department should be included in the discussion and decision-making for this section of the IEP.

Each public agency must ensure that the student's IEP is accessible to any service provider who is responsible for its implementation; each provider is informed of his or her specific responsibilities related to implementing the student's IEP; and, the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided for the student in accordance with the IEP. Therefore, if the student has a medical, behavioral, or other need of which the bus driver should be made aware, it is the public agency's responsibility to inform the bus driver of his or her responsibilities to implement the student's IEP and any specific accommodations, modifications, and/or supports the student may need.

3-52. What must be addressed in the *Annual Goal Progress Report*?

The following must be addressed in the **Annual Goal Progress Report**:

- a. A description of how the student's progress toward meeting the annual goals will be measured and when periodic reports on the progress the student is making toward meeting the annual goals (such as through the use of quarterly or other periodic reports, concurrent with the issuance of report cards) will be provided.
- b. IEP goals must be addressed. The report is in addition to, not instead of, the usual report card and grades given for participation in regular education classes.

3-53. What should be considered in the Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance?

The **Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance** should be written in terms that are observable, specific, and based on evidence. The **Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance** should include the strengths and needs of the student and how the student's disability affects the student's performance in the general education curriculum. For preschool children, as appropriate, the **Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance** should include how the disability affects the child's participation in age appropriate activities.

3-54. What are Measurable Annual Goals?

Measurable Annual Goals are related to needs resulting from the student's disability that directly affect involvement and progress in the general education curriculum. Goals should be specific, based on the student's **Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance**. Goals should be measurable. Goals should be realistically achievable and related to the most critical needs. Goals should be results-oriented by being developed with an outcome in mind, and goals should be time bound by clearly defining the length of time in which the student should be able to master each goal. **Academic goals must be written to general education content standards, or Alabama Extended Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are being assessed with the Alabama Alternate Assessment, or Developmental Standards for preschool children with disabilities.**

3-55. Should the Measurable Annual Goals be stated in terms of percentages or trials?

As long as the goals are written in measurable terms to the extent that they can be used to monitor progress and assess the appropriateness of special education services, goals can be stated in terms of percentages or trials. The SES highly recommends that goals are reviewed on a regular basis.

3-56. If IEPs are written that cover two grades, which grade level of standards do we use?

An IEP that covers two academic grades should address the content and skills that the student will need to be involved and progress in the general education curriculum for both school years. Depending on the nature of the student's needs, the IEP goals may or may not reflect course of study standards for multiple school years.

3-57. Can we write only one measurable annual goal?

The amount of goals written should be based on the student's needs. (For students working on extended standards at least one goal in the area of reading, math, and functional skills is required).

- 3-58. Do we write a measurable annual goal for all academic areas or just for the area(s) of the student's weakness?**
- Goals should address the area(s) of need for the student.
- 3-59. Do we write goals for classes taught by regular education teachers?**
- Goals should be written to address the student's needs not the classes taught. Goals should not restate the standard.
- 3-60. Would there ever be a reason to have the student's measurable annual goal read "the student will maintain A's and B's on grade-level standards"?**
- No. Goals should be written based on the student's deficit areas in working toward grade-level standards.
- 3-61. Must all IEPs have a reading and math goal?**
- Students should have goals that address the student's area of need which may or may not be reading and/or math.
- 3-62. Do goals need to be written for specially designed physical education (PE)?**
- If the student receives specially designed PE which is an area of instruction, the IEP must have goal(s) if the PE curriculum is being modified. If only accommodations are provided for PE, goals are not required unless specially designed PE is the only goal being addressed in the student's IEP. The PE accommodations without a goal should be documented under **Supplementary Aids and Services** on the goal page of the IEP.
- 3-63. If a student with physical disabilities requires specially designed PE, whose job is it to provide this service?**
- If specially designed PE is prescribed in a student's IEP, the public agency responsible for the education of that student must provide the services directly or make arrangements for them to be provided through other public or private programs.
- 3-64. Do goals need to be written for OT or PT services?**
- Goals should not be written for OT and PT services. The OT and PT services are related services that are needed to assist the student to benefit from special education services. Address OT and PT services under **Related Services** in the IEP.
- 3-65. Is it appropriate to have fluency goals for a high school student?**
- Yes, if this is an area of need for the student.
- 3-66. Does speech need to be written as a goal or as a related service?**
- If SLI is the disability area and the student qualifies in articulation, voice, or fluency, there must be a speech goal(s) and speech should be addressed as "**Special Education**" under the **Special Education and Related Service(s)** section of the IEP. If a student qualifies for SLI in the area of language, the IEP team should have a language goal, reading goal, or other goal with a language component embedded in the goal and services should be addressed as "**Special Education**" under the **Special Education and Related Service(s)** section of the IEP. If SLI is not identified to be the area of disability on the student's eligibility report, goals may or may not be written in the area of articulation, voice, or fluency. That will be an IEP Team decision. When SLI is not the area of disability as stated on the eligibility report, it should be addressed as a "**Related Service**" under the **Special Education and Related Service(s)** section of the IEP.

3-67. What is meant by the term peer reviewed research?

The term peer reviewed research means there is reliable evidence that the program or services are effective. The IEP Team should have strong evidence (i.e., journal publications, programs that are known to be scientifically based researched, teacher data) of the effectiveness of instructional programs and other services before proposing them in an IEP. Peer reviewed research also applies to nonacademic areas such as behavioral interventions. Before the IEP Team lists specially designed services and/or programs under **Special Education and Related Service(s)**, the IEP Team must validate that the services and/or programs have been proven to be effective based on peer review research.

3-68. Where would you list a scientifically based reading research program on an IEP?

A program used for all students does not need to be addressed in the IEP. If it is a program used specifically to meet an individual student's needs, the program would be identified under the **Special Education and Related Service(s)** section of the IEP. Naming a specific program in the IEP is not recommended because a specific program may change (i.e., the program isn't working, the student transfers) within the implementation and duration dates of the IEP.

3-69. What is meant by Benchmarks?

Benchmarks are targeted sub skills or steps (levels of achievement) that lead to the achievement of the overall annual goal and should contain clear indications of how the student's progress will be evaluated.

3-70. If a child is in all regular classes, are Benchmarks required?

Benchmarks are required only for those students who participate in alternate assessments aligned to alternate achievement standards and for those students where the public agency requires benchmarks for all students.

3-71. Can Measurable Annual Goals and/or Benchmarks be changed without initiating another IEP Team meeting?

Changes in the IEP can only be made through an IEP Team meeting or through the allowable amendment process. Regardless, notice must be provided to the parent explaining the changes made.

3-72. What is meant by the terms anticipated frequency of service(s), amount of time, beginning/ending date, and location of service(s)?

Terms	Explanation Of Terms
Anticipated Frequency of Service(s)	Indicates how often the service(s) will be provided (e.g., annual, bi-monthly, daily, weekly).
Amount of Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Refers to the minutes, hours, or days for each area. b. Required for Special Education and Related Services. c. If the IEP Team knows the Amount of Time for other needed services, it should be included.
Beginning/Ending Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The start to finish of service(s). b. May be different for each goal listed. c. May be different from the IEP Initiation/Duration Dates.
Location of Service(s)	The specific location where the services will be provided (e.g., regular education classroom, resource room, school bus, lunch room, gym).

3-73. When putting the minutes on related services, do you put a cumulative amount for those areas where the services are not provided daily?

The Amount of Time must be documented for all **related service** areas. There are various ways to document the Amount **of Time**. All IEP Team members should understand what services will be provided and ensure that the services are documented and implemented as per the IEP Team's understanding.

3-74. How are supplementary aids and services defined?

This refers to the aids, services, and other supports that are provided in regular education classes, other education-related settings, and in extracurricular and nonacademic settings to enable students with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled students to the maximum extent appropriate.

3-75. What is the difference in an accommodation and a modification?

Accommodations lessen the impact of the student's disability in the teaching/learning environment in order to level the playing field but do not change the content of the standard. When accommodations are made for the student with disabilities, the content has not been altered and the student can earn course credit. **Modifications** are changes made to the content of the curriculum due to the unique needs arising from the student's disability. When course content is modified, the student is not pursuing the content prescribed in the applicable course of study and cannot earn course credit.

3-76. If the student requires support for personnel in the general education curriculum, where do you document this?

Support for personnel should be documented on the **Special Education and Related Service(s)** page of the IEP under "**Support for Personnel**" and should be indicated on the IEP only when training or support are being provided to public agency personnel regarding a student's specific need.

3-77. When the special education teacher collaborates with the regular education teacher by meeting with him or her to discuss the student's special education services, is that considered Special Education or Support for Personnel?

That is considered **Special Education** and should be documented under "**Special Education**" in the **Special Education and Related Service(s)** section of the IEP.

3-78. When extended school year (ESY) services should be provided?

The IEP Team must consider ESY services at least annually as part of the provision of FAPE. The ESY services must be provided only if a student's IEP Team determines that the services are necessary for the provision of FAPE. If ESY services are needed, the IEP must clearly specify which goals and services are being extended, the beginning and ending dates for services, the location, and the amount of time committed.

3-79. Why is the IEP Team required to include an explanation of the extent to which a student will NOT participate with nondisabled students in the regular class and in extracurricular and nonacademic activities?

The IDEA requires that each student with a disability be educated with nondisabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. A student with a disability may be removed from the regular education environment only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in the regular education classroom with **Supplementary Aids and Services** cannot be satisfactorily achieved. To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities should participate with nondisabled students in nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities. The IDEA assumes that the majority of students who are eligible for special education and related services are capable of participating in the general education curriculum to some degree with accommodations and/or modifications. The IEP Team must consider the needs of the individual student and decide the extent to which the student is able to participate appropriately in the general education curriculum.

3-80. If a student receives intermittent services at home or in the hospital, could more than one LRE be noted?

No. The IEP Team should determine where the student spends most of his or her time and choose the LRE based on that information. If the amount of time is equally spent at home and in the hospital only choose one LRE. The IEP Team should explain why a student receives services in more than one environment in the **Least Restrictive Environment** section of the IEP.

3-81. Under what circumstances can you justify a separate school as a student's LRE?

The justification of LRE is written for the student not for the separate school. The justification should be based on the needs of the student. Students enrolled in separate schools should still be afforded the opportunity for interaction with age-appropriate nondisabled peers. Also, physical education services, specially designed if necessary, must be made available to every student with a disability receiving FAPE, unless the public agency enrolls students without disabilities and does not provide physical education to students without disabilities in the same grades.

3-82. Are public agencies required to have a continuum of services available?

Yes. A public agency may not say that the only option is full inclusion or a self-contained classroom.

3-83. Is a parent signature required on the IEP?

There is not a requirement in the IDEA statute or the federal regulations that a parent sign an IEP for it to be implemented. The parent signature is a way of documenting parent participation.

3-84. If a parent participated in the IEP meeting via conference call, should a signature page for the IEP be mailed to the parent for their signature?

No. Simply document how the parent participated in the IEP Team meeting in the space provided for the parent signature. The parent must be provided a copy of the IEP.

3-85. If the parent and the public agency are unable to reach agreement at an IEP meeting, what steps should be followed until agreement is reached?

The IEP Team meeting serves as a communication vehicle between the parent and school personnel, and enables them, as equal participants, to make joint, informed decisions regarding the: (1) child's needs and appropriate goals; (2) extent to which the child will be involved in the general education curriculum and participate in the regular education environment and state and districtwide assessments; and (3) services needed to support that involvement and participation, and to achieve agreed-upon goals. The parent is considered an equal partner with school personnel in making these decisions; and, the IEP Team must consider the parent's concerns and the information provided by the parent regarding the child in developing, reviewing, and revising IEPs. The IEP Team should work toward consensus, but the public agency has ultimate responsibility to ensure that the IEP includes the services that the student needs in order to receive FAPE. It is not appropriate to make IEP decisions based upon a majority "vote." If the IEP Team cannot reach consensus, the public agency must provide the parent with prior written notice of the public agency's proposals or refusals, or both, regarding the student's education program, and the parent has the right to seek resolution of any disagreements by initiating an impartial due process hearing. Every effort should be made to resolve differences between the parent and school staff through voluntary mediation or some other informal step, without resorting to a due process hearing. However, mediation or other informal procedures may not be used to deny or delay a parent's right to a due process hearing or to deny any other rights afforded under the IDEA.

3-86. What if the parent gets upset and leaves the IEP meeting?

If the parent gets upset and leaves the IEP meeting, the meeting may continue. An IEP Team member should document that the parent was present during part of the meeting. Each IEP Team member should document his or her participation and position(s) he/she is serving in by signing and dating on the appropriate line(s). The parent must be provided a copy of the IEP as well as a *Notice of Proposal or Refusal to Take Action* form if this was an annual IEP Team meeting. If this was an IEP amendment meeting, the parent must receive a copy of the revised IEP and a *Notice of Proposal or Refusal to Take Action* form explaining the changes.

3-87. Is it permissible for the public agency to have the IEP completed before the IEP meeting begins?

No. Public education agency staff may come to an IEP meeting prepared with evaluation findings and proposed recommendations regarding the IEP content, but the public agency must make it clear to the parent at the beginning of the meeting that the services proposed by the public agency are only recommendations for review and discussion by the IEP Team. Best practice would be to seek input from the parent prior to the meeting and/or send a draft of the IEP to the parent so he/she has time to review the proposed IEP prior to the meeting.

3-88. Are state assessment forms required for preschool?

No.

3-89. How many pages will be in an IEP?

The number of pages in an IEP would depend on the needs of the student and what the IEP Team determines the student can reasonably be expected to do during a school year.

3-90. Who should have a copy of the IEP?

The special education teacher and/or case manager of the student must have a copy of the IEP. The public agency is also required to provide a copy of the IEP to the parent at no cost. Others responsible for implementing parts of the IEP (e.g., regular education teacher(s), related service providers, and any other service provider) must be informed of their specific responsibilities related to implementing the IEP and the accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided in accordance with the student's IEP. The IEP must be "accessible" to these other providers but it is not a requirement that a personal copy of the entire IEP be provided. If a personal copy of the IEP is provided to other service providers, they must be made aware that the IEP document in whole or in part must be protected in a secure location and treated as a confidential document.

3-91. Should a paraprofessional assigned to a student sign the *Persons Responsible for IEP Implementation*?

Yes. Each regular education teacher, special education teacher, related service providers, and any other service provider must first be informed of his or her specific responsibilities related to implementing the student's IEP and the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided for the student in accordance with the IEP. Secondly, once informed of his or her responsibilities, each individual responsible for the implementation of the student's IEP must sign the form *Persons Responsible for IEP Implementation*. The student's case manager must keep a copy of the form *Persons Responsible for IEP Implementation* with the individual signatures on file.

3-92. How often must the IEP and placement be reviewed?

The IEP must be reviewed at least annually. The IEP and placement may be reviewed more often, if needed. The parent or the teacher may request an IEP Team meeting if there is a need to review or revise the IEP.

3-93. How do we document parent participation in a meeting if they participated by phone?

To document parent participation on hard copy forms and in SETS, on the parent signature line write, "parent participated by phone."

3-94. What is the process to discontinue the speech-language services only for a student with an exceptionality area other than SLI who continues to need other special education services?

Since the exceptionality is in an area other than SLI, the IEP Team's decision should be documented on the Profile Page of the IEP. The IEP Team may make a change at an annual IEP meeting/review or through the Amendment Process (follow Process Chart 5, page 113 of *Mastering the Maze*).