

# Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Members

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## Did You Know?!

A school district has mandatory team members who must be at a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.

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Parents have the right to invite any person with knowledge or specialized expertise to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.

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The parents are the ones who decide if the person they invite to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting has knowledge or specialized expertise.

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The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires school districts have **mandatory** school members at each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.

## The Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team includes:

- The parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student.
- At least one (1) general education teacher of the student and/or who knows how the student is doing in the classroom and with the general education curriculum.
- At least one (1) special education teacher to offer input for what the student needs to succeed in the general education classroom, including how to modify instruction or accommodate the student's needs.

- A representative of the school district who can approve school resources for the student. 1) 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 curriculum and 3) is knowledgeable about the availability of resources within the school district.
- An expert who can interpret the student's evaluation results, such as a school psychologist.
- At the discretion of the parent or the school district, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student, including related services personnel if appropriate
- Whenever appropriate, the student.
- The school district is required to provide an interpreter if one is needed.

#### Excusal Rules:

A school district team member is not required to attend an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting, in whole or in part, if the parent and the school districts representative **agree** that the school district team member is not necessary because their area of expertise will not be discussed or changed during the meeting.

When the Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting involves a discussion or change to the school district team members' area and the parent and the school districts representative **consent** to the excusal, and the school district team member submits, in writing, input into the development of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) before the Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.

The agreement or consent happens **before** the Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting takes place and is in **writing**.

### **Did You Know?!**

A general education teacher must be present for the Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting. They play an important role in the student having access to their Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

Please review **M.L. v. Federal Way School District (WA) (9th Cir. 2004)** where the Court found that the failure to include a regular education teacher on the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team was a serious procedural error and a denial of the students Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).