



Welcome to:

# A Quick Guide to IEPs and the Special Education Process for Parents and Professionals



4440 N. First St. Fresno, CA 93726  
(559) 229-2000 TOLLFREE: (844) 445-0305  
[www.epuchildren.org](http://www.epuchildren.org)

# Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

➔ Federal Education Law

Students age (3-22\*) must fit at least 1 of 13 categories of disability and also need specialized support and instruction to benefit from education.

Provides an IEP: special education plan

- specialized instruction
- supportive related services

IEP must be individualized to meet a student's unique needs

Appropriate  
Assessment

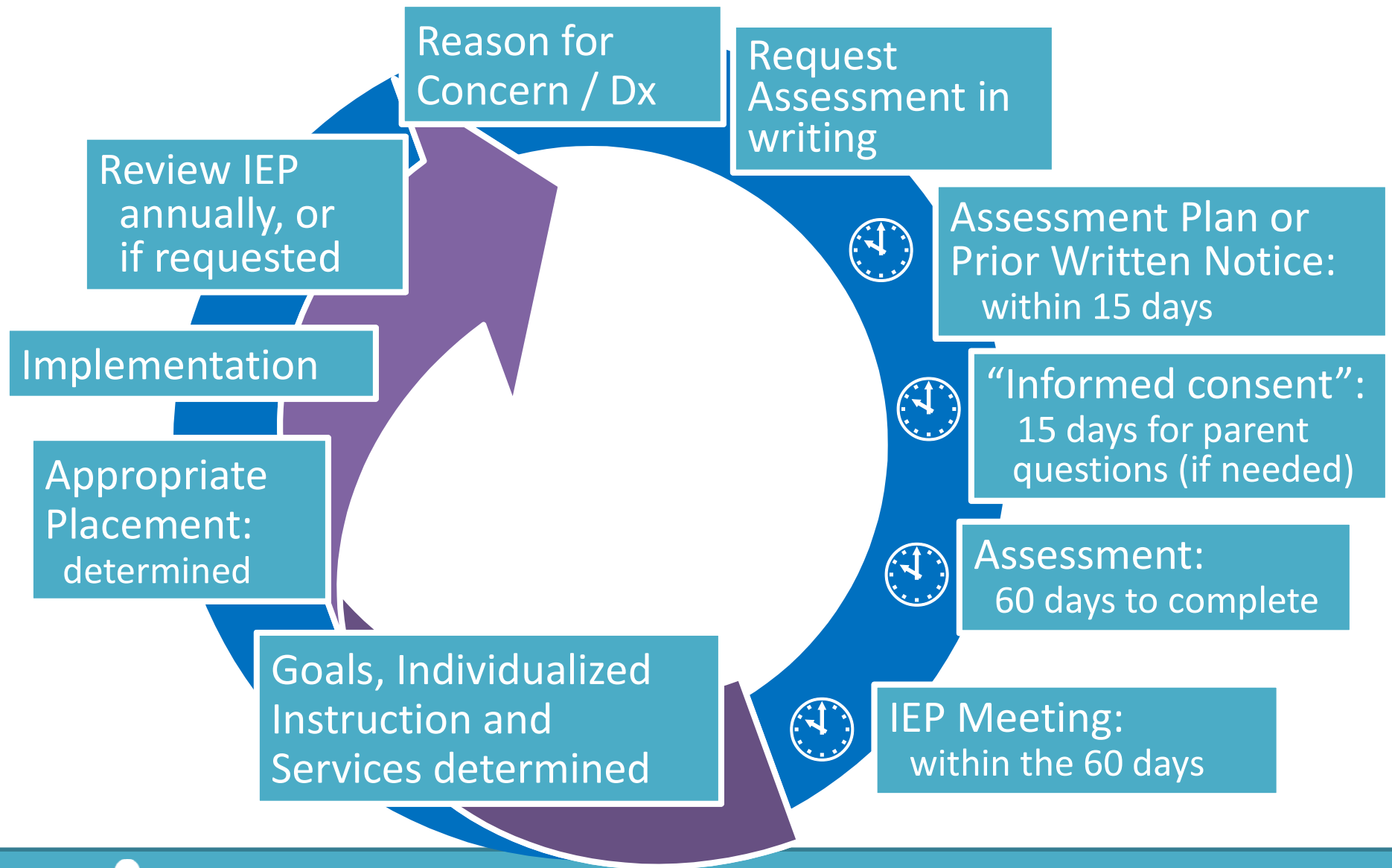
Individualized  
Education Plan

Student &  
Parent  
Participation

Free &  
Appropriate  
Public Education

Least Restrictive  
Environment

Procedures to  
Safeguard Rights



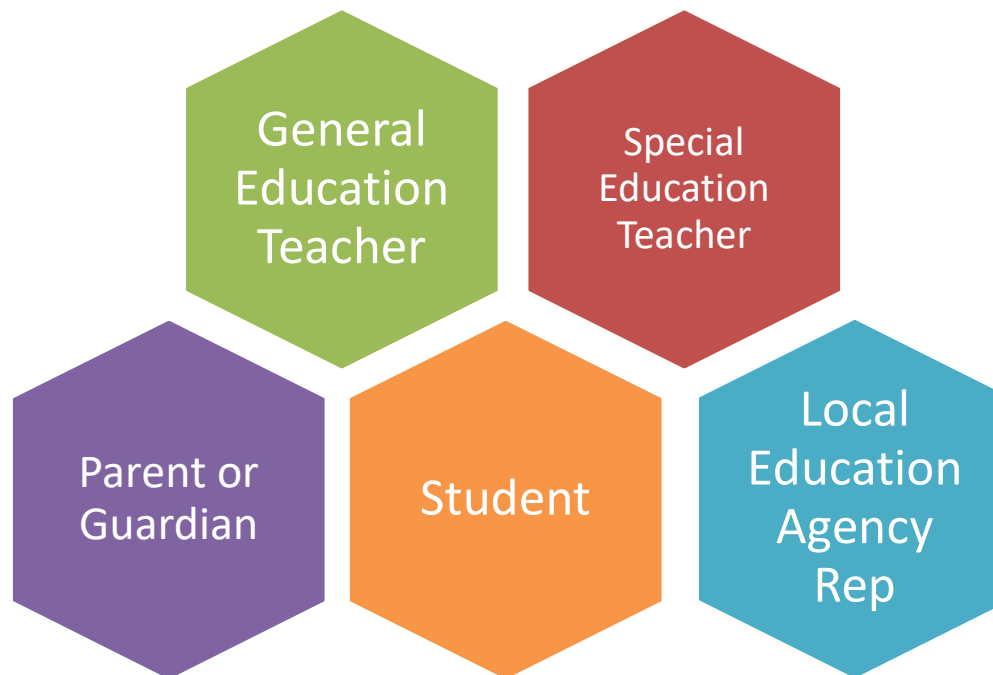
- Request in writing.

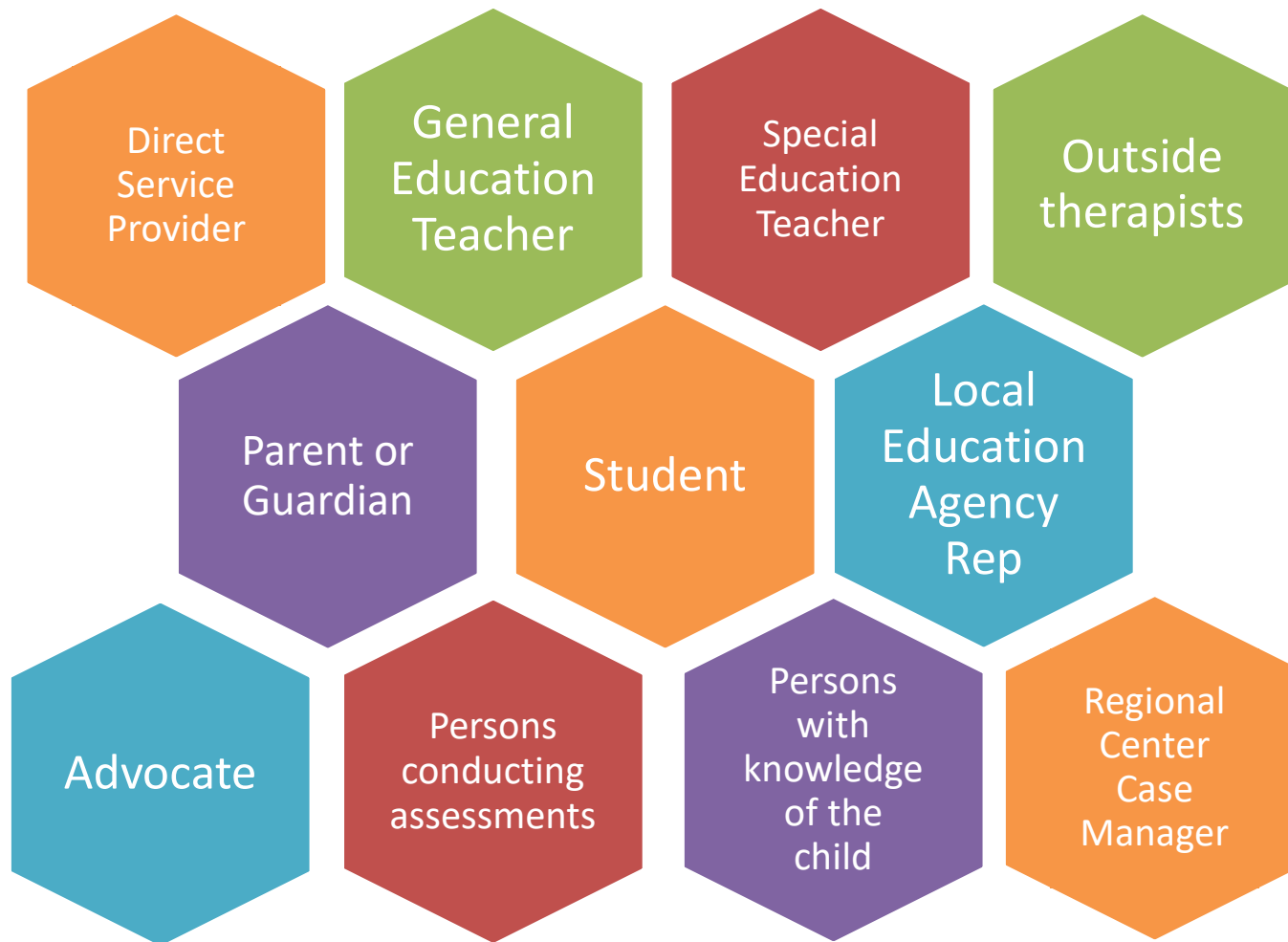
Assessment plan-  
Requires consent

In all suspected areas of  
disability

Triennial IEP  
re-evaluation every three  
years







**Placement**

**Services**

**Goals**

**Present Levels of  
Performance**

**Parent Concerns**

# Free Appropriate Public Education



Free  
At no cost to families  
Appropriate

Able to meet the  
child's unique needs

Public

Provided by or paid for  
by the school system

Education

Services identified as necessary  
for the child to benefit

## Classroom Inclusion: Where in General Education can your child be included?

- Field trips
- Lunch
- Recess
- Sports
- Band
- PE
- Music
- Art
- Library
- School jobs
- Reverse inclusion
- Classroom party

Behavior Support

Assistive  
Technology

Special  
Considerations

Transition  
Planning (at 16)

Accommodations  
& Modifications

Extended School  
Year (ESY)

The IEP is a legally binding document.  
“Would I sign any other legally-binding document without adequate time for a thorough review?”

Sign in that you are an IEP participant, but...

Before consenting (agreeing to sign) the IEP:

- ☒ Ask for copies of the IEP & other documents
- ☒ You may take these copies home for careful review

Your signature is as valuable as **GOLD**

There are three places on the form where the school district would like your signature.

- Attendance/Participation ➡
- Agreement  
In whole  
In part ➡
- Medi-Cal release ➡

SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SIGNATURE AND PARENT CONSENT

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ IEP Date \_\_\_\_\_

IEP Meeting Participants

Parent/Guardian/Surrogate	Date _____	Parent/Guardian	Date _____
Student/Adult Student	Date _____	General Education Teacher	Date _____
LEA Representative/Admin. Designee	Date _____	Special Education Specialist	Date _____
Additional Participant/Title	Date _____	Additional Participant/Title	Date _____
Additional Participant/Title	Date _____	Additional Participant/Title	Date _____
Additional Participant/Title	Date _____	Additional Participant/Title	Date _____
Additional Participant/Title	Date _____	Additional Participant/Title	Date _____

CONSENT

☐ I agree to all parts of the IEP.  
☐ I agree with the IEP, with the exception of \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ I decline the offer of initiation of special education services.  
☐ I understand that my child is not eligible for special education.  
☐ I understand that my child is no longer eligible for special education.

As a means of improving services and results for your child did the school facilitate parent involvement?  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Response

Signature below is to authorize and approve the IEP.


Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Parent ☐ Guardian ☐ Surrogate ☐ Adult Student

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Parent ☐ Guardian ☐ Surrogate ☐ Adult Student

If my child is or may become eligible for public benefits (Medi-Cal): I authorize the LEA/district to release student information for the limited purpose of billing Medi-Cal/Medicaid and to access Medi-Cal health insurance benefits for applicable services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Parent ☐ Guardian ☐ Surrogate ☐ Adult Student

☐ Parent/Adult Student has received a copy of the Procedural Safeguards.  
☐ Parent/Adult Student has received a copy of assessment report (if applicable).  
☐ Parent/Adult Student has received a copy of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP).  
☐ Parent/Adult Student has received written notification of protections available to parents when LEA requests to access Medi-Cal benefits.  
☐ Student enrolled in private school by their parents. Refer to Individual Service Plan, if appropriate.



**Procedural Safeguards make sure that parent's and student's rights are protected in the process when a child receives special education.**

- **Procedural safeguards**
- **Prior Written Notice**
- **Access to All Records**



When schools and families disagree...

Facilitated IEP

Mediation

Due Process

Compliance Complaint

EPU can help you resolve concerns  
with your school team.

Call us for more information.



Alternative Dispute Resolution



Office of Special Education Programs  
U.S. Department of Education

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# Questions?

## Thank you for coming!

## Don't forget to fill out an evaluation before you leave



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