

From Understood.org: *What is an IEP?*

IEP stands for Individualized Education Program. An IEP describes special education, [supports](#), and [related services](#) kids need to receive a [Free Appropriate Public Education](#) (FAPE).

IEPs are covered by special education law, or the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) (IDEA). They're created for eligible kids who attend public school, which includes charter schools.

Who Qualifies for an IEP?

Eligible students are “adversely affected” by a one of these [disabilities](#): Specific Learning Disability; Other Health Impairment (includes ADD, ADHD); Autism Spectrum Disorder; Emotional Disturbance; Speech or Language Impairment; Visual Impairment/Blindness; Deafness/Hearing Loss; Deaf-Blindness; Orthopedic Impairment; Intellectual Disability; Traumatic Brain Injury; Multiple Disabilities (not used on IEPs in Florida)

What is the IEP Process?

Before qualifying for and IEP, your child is evaluated by the school ([6 steps to request a free school evaluation](#)) and/or receives a [private evaluation](#). Sometimes the school will start the [IEP process](#), but the school can't evaluate your child without your consent.

[Contents of the IEP](#): ([SMART IEPs](#), Wrightslaw)

At least once per year, the [IEP team](#) will [meet](#) to set [annual goals](#).

[Questions to ask about your child's IEP goals](#)

A [SMART](#) (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-oriented, and Time-bound) IEP goal **describes how your child will accomplish it.**

[The Special Education Survival Guide by Pam & Pete Wright](#)

[The Difference between IEPs and 504 plans](#)

[Sample 504 Plan](#) (for a child with ADHD) and [Template](#)

[District Implementation Guide for Section 504 \(FLDOE\)](#)

Other Resources:

Your local Parent Training and Information Center ([Family Network on Disabilities](#)) can answer questions and give practical advice on issues specific to your area.

[Special Education Downloadable Resources](#)

[Tip Sheets](#)

Information on Special Education services and accommodations available for instruction and [assessment](#) is also available from the Florida Department of Education: Bureau of [Exceptional Student Education](#).

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System ([FDLRS](#))

[Child Find](#): FDLRS helps school districts locate children who have or at risk of developing disabilities and links them with needed services. Diagnostic screening/placement, training, and supports are provided.

www.fdlrs.org/parent-services/child-development-milestones-red-flags-videos

[Parent & Family Services](#): FDLRS promotes effective parent participation in the education of children with disabilities and supports partnerships between schools and parents.

[Human Resource Development](#): FDLRS specialists plan, deliver, follow-up, and evaluate data-based professional learning.

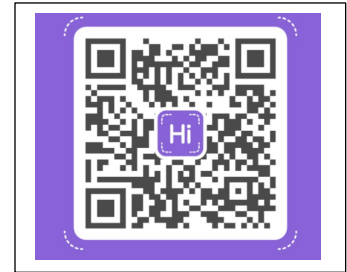
[Technology](#): FDLRS supports appropriate use of a variety of technologies for students, teachers, professional staff, and parents. Support services are available in the areas of assistive technology, instructional technology, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Accessible Educational Materials (AEM), and virtual instruction.

If Your Child Has Diagnosed or Suspected Sensory Loss:

[Florida & Virgin Islands \(FAVI\) Deaf-Blind Collaborative](#)

If you suspect that a child may not be able to use her/his hearing and vision effectively, please refer the child/family to the Florida & Virgin Islands Deaf-Blind Collaborative (www.deafblind.ufl.edu)

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[FAVI: Make a Referral or Request Assistance](#)

[Florida School for the Deaf & Blind: Parent Infant Program](#)

[Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing](#)

[Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired](#)