



THE INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)

A Guide for Parents

The IEP summarizes the following:

- your child's strengths and needs
- assessment data
- special education services provided to your child
- accommodations (supports and services that will help your child access the curriculum and demonstrate learning)
- program modifications (changes required to grade-level expectations in the Ontario Curriculum)
- alternative programs/courses not represented in the Ontario Curriculum (such as Personal Care, Orientation/Mobility Training, Auditory Verbal Intervention Strategies, and/or development of American Sign Language skills.)
- your child's current level of achievement in each program area
- goals and specific expectations for your child
- assessment strategies for reviewing your child's achievements and progress
- regular updates showing dates, results, and recommendations
- a Transition Plan
- medical/health supports and services
- a Safety Plan

How Does an IEP Work?

An IEP outlines the special education programs and services your child will receive. There are five phases in the development of an IEP:

1. Gather information
2. Set the direction
3. Develop the plan
4. Carry out the planned activities
5. Review and update the IEP, including the Transition Plan and Safety Plan

What is an Individual Education Plan (IEP)?

An IEP is a written plan. It is a working document which describes the strengths and needs of an individual exceptional pupil, the special education program and services established to meet that pupil's needs, and how the program and services will be delivered. It describes the student's progress and includes a plan to support students in making successful transitions.

Review and Update the IEP

Your child's progress toward their goals will be reviewed. Then, the IEP will be updated to include different strategies, approaches, and/or resources considered necessary to help the learning process.

- Talk to your child's teacher about the goals that have been set.
- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher regarding progress.
- Look for evidence of growth towards goals on your child's report card.
- Recommend changes in goals, strategies and/or resources, or support where you see a need.
- Be actively involved in discussions at school when your child is changing grades, schools, or moving into the workplace.

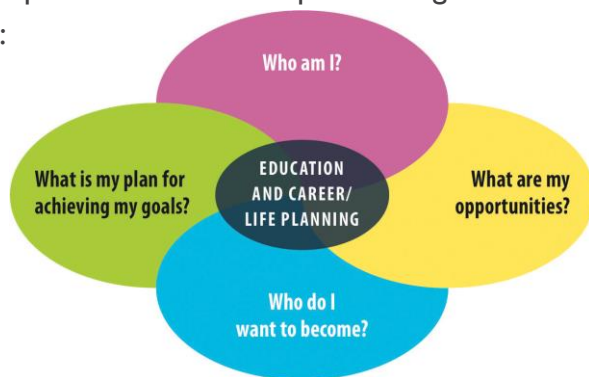
AS THE PARENT, WHAT ROLE DO I PLAY?

Parents play a powerful supporting role in the IEP process and transition planning. It is important to understand and participate in the five phases of the IEP process. As well, be sure to ask for a copy of your child's IEP, within 30 school days, so that you can support the planned activities at home. You know things about your child's approach to learning that no one else knows. Be sure to tell the teacher about your child's:

- talents and abilities
- likes, dislikes, and interests
- interest in extra-curricular activities
- family relationships and dynamics
- peer relationships and dynamics
- family routines and schedules
- hopes and dreams for the future, including any short and/or long-term goals
- how your child learns best (e.g., by doing, through demonstration, etc.)

Individual Pathway Plan (IPP)

You may wish to consider asking your child about their Individual Pathways Plan (Grades 7-12). These tools support students in planning for their future as they engage in experiences and develop knowledge and skills in 4 key areas of learning:



For more information on Pathway Planning, please visit the RRDSB Pathways website at <https://sites.google.com/gapps.rrdsb.com/pathways>

DEVELOPING THE IEP

How Can I Contribute to Planning Goals for My Child?

Beginning with your child's strengths and needs is an important first step. You can help by engaging in discussions with your child and their teachers around establishing short-term and long-term goals.



Visit our website at www.rrdsb.com 522 Second Street East, Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 1N4

SETTING THE DIRECTION

How Do I Work as an Effective IEP Team Member?

Students are most successful when all team members work together towards achievable goals.

As a parent:

- keep the focus on your child at all times
- tell the teacher the hopes you have for your child's learning
- bring ideas and information
- ask questions
- value everyone's input

WHAT IS A TRANSITION PLAN?

A written plan which outlines the daily, short-term, and long-term changes to programs/pathways.

Transitions may include:

- entry to school
- activity to activity
- class to class
- between grades
- school to school
- elementary school to secondary school
- secondary school to education, career, community, and life pathway