

What Are Parent/Guardian Roles and Responsibilities During a Student-led IEP Meeting?

Before the Meeting

- Acquire a copy of your child's previous IEP and review it. Prepare any questions or concerns about what has worked well in the past or what you think could potentially work well in the future. Listen to your child's concerns and what he/she wants included in his/her own IEP.
- Be sure to discuss with your child what his/her disability is and how it affects him/her.
- Explain why some things are difficult so that your child can understand his/her limitations.
- Think about what your child's student's strengths and interests are and how these can be combined into creating an achievable goal for him/her. Be sure to encourage your child to set goals that will help him/her to prepare for achieving postsecondary education, employment, and independent living goals.
- Help your child prepare or practice identifying and expressing what his/her goals are and what he/she wants to say at the meeting.
- Share your thoughts and ideas with your child and let him/her know he/she has your support.
- Be sure the student has a plan if he/she becomes uncomfortable while in the meeting.

During the Meeting

- Attend the meeting with support for the student's self-reliance needs in mind.
- Follow the rules and the agenda established by the student during the meeting.
- Present your concerns and questions at the meeting.
- Maintain awareness of whether your student's rights are being honored throughout the meeting.
- Express concerns and give space in the meeting if conflict arises for others to share concerns and ideas.

After the Meeting

- After the meeting keep a copy of the revised IEP document. Going forward, refer to the IEP and your personal notes to remember what has been agreed upon in the IEP. Be sure that the student is receiving what was agreed upon in the IEP.
- Know that at any time during the year if you or your child feels the IEP is not being followed or implemented, you can request another meeting to examine the IEP.
- Be aware of how the IEP is helping your child to meet his/her long-term goals as well as developing his/her interests in postsecondary goals. Highlight what the child learned in the IEP meeting and what your child can improve on in the following year's IEP meeting.

Adapted from *Implementing Student-led Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) in the District of Columbia*, developed by the DC Secondary Transition Community of Practice's Youth Leadership Subcommittee.