

HOW CAN BASE LEGAL ASSIST MY FAMILY?

Attorneys can help
families navigate

SPECIAL EDUCATION

legal issues for students
whose educational
performance is adversely
impacted by their disabilities

Examples:

- 👉 Individualized Education Program (IEP) Disputes
- 👉 Transfers of IEPs and accommodation
- 👉 Education disputes and remedies
- 👉 Understanding parental rights



For more information about the below
referenced services or contact
information for representatives in your
local area, please scan these codes:

EFMP Family Support Coordinator



Oversee identification,
enrollment & resources for
military families with
special needs to help them
understand and navigate
systems of care



School Liaison Office

They provide education
services for PreK-12
Students, Families and
Educators serving military
connected students



Legal Assistance Office

Available to provide legal
advice and counseling to
Airmen and Guardians of
students whose education-
al performance is impacted
by their disabilities



DAF Family Vector Video Library

Contains a series of short
videos explaining terms
and topics of interest for
EFMP military families re-
lated to special education
law, and other areas

Prepared by the
EFM Legal Assistance
and Policy Branch

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U.S. AIR FORCE



UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE™

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Legal Assistance

on

Individualized Education Program (IEP)



Individualized Education Program

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a document memorializing the needs of a child with a disability, the proper classroom placement, and services designed to meet those unique educational and related needs. It is developed in collaboration between parents and district personnel (IEP Team) to create an educational plan built towards the student's academic progress.

The development of an IEP is a requirement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for K-12 educational programs receiving federal funding, as part of the requirement to provide a "free and appropriate public education." An IEP must be reasonably calculated to afford the child an appropriate education, enabling them to make appropriate progress in light of the child's unique circumstances. The school's obligation is to provide an appropriate education, it is not legally required to provide the absolute best.

What are the components of an IEP?

By definition, an IEP must be in writing, but there is no federally mandated length or format. The U.S. Department of Education developed a model IEP to ensure components identified in the statute are included, but states have their own model IEPs.

The minimum components are:

- ◆ The child's present levels of academic achievement
- ◆ Measurable annual academic and functional goals
- ◆ Placement, or the extent to which the child will not participate with general education students
- ◆ A statement of the education, related services, and supplementary aids to be provided to the child
- ◆ For services and modifications, the projected date for beginning, frequency, location, and duration
- ◆ Description of how to measure and due dates of periodic reports for the child's progress toward goals
- ◆ Any individualized appropriate accommodations necessary to measure academic achievement and functional performance on state/district assessments
- ◆ For children 16+, transitional goals and services

How can legal assistance attorneys help?

Military attorneys can help educate parents to become better advocates for themselves and their children. Developing an IEP is a "fact-intensive" exercise requiring collaboration between the school and the parents, informed by expert evaluations and assessments. It is imperative for parents to be educated about their rights before, during, and after the process of developing an IEP for their children with disabilities.

When should I seek legal assistance?

The IEP does not operate as a contract offering guarantees that a student will achieve a certain amount of academic proficiency. However, the school is obligated to the goals, placement, and related services as agreed upon on the IEP. Parents and guardians can consult with an attorney at any time, but particularly when they believe the school is not complying with the IEP, when either party is seeking a revision on an IEP or when a dispute arises over the content of an existing IEP.