

IDEA 2004 Roadmap to the IEP

IDEA 2004 regulates how we as a country are to evaluate and educate the disabled children in our community. IDEA 2004 is a 307 page federal regulation that is based on IDEA 1997. The subtle changes in wording have a larger change in how your child's IEP is worded and how achievement is measured

Purpose (Why they wrote the Law)

"The purposes of this part are-To ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for **further education, employment, and independent living.**" (Pg.217)

Present Levels of Performance

In IDEA 97, IEP's were required to include "a statement of the child's present levels of educational performance: *In IDEA 2004 they changed it to: **levels of academic achievement and functional performance.*** The new wording is more objective, and based on data from assessments.

Annual Goals

IDEA 2004 also looks further down the life of the student, eliminating short term benchmarks from the IEP, except that the children who take alternate assessments, and replaces them with "**a statement of measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals.**"

Educational Progress

Under IDEA 2004, **the child's IEP must include** "a description of how the child's progress toward meeting the annual goals...will be measured and **when periodic reports on the progress the child is making toward meeting the annual goals will be provided**" Under IDEA 1997 the parents were 'regularly informed'. Some schools would 'regularly inform' the parents at the annual meeting.

Special Education and Related Services

IDEA 2004 includes important new language about **research-based instruction**. The IEP must include "a statement of the special education and related services and supplementary aids and services" Services now must be based on 'Peer Reviewed Research to the extent practicable' It also must include a statement of the "program modifications or support for school personnel".

Accommodations

A child's IEP under IDEA 2004 now **must** contain "**...a statement of any individual appropriate accommodations that are necessary to measure the academic achievement and functional performance of the child on State and district-wide assessments...**"