PARENT TIPS FOR THE IEP

BEFORE THE IEP

* Respond to the meeting notification.

* Make sure your requests and communications are all in writing.

* Gather and organize all recent and relevant documents; review and bring with you.

* Request that you be given in advance of the IEP any completed assessment results, draft IEPs and/or reports on current goals (Note: the district is not required to provide these in advance).

* Give at least 24 hours notice to tape record the meeting.

* Have a vision in mind; know what you see in terms of new goals, services and placement. Part of this is knowing your child and knowing your options.

* Note your concerns, questions and feedback. You can write a parent statement if desired.

* Arrange for a friend, partner or support to accompany you to the IEP.
PARENT TIPS FOR THE IEP

DURING THE IEP

* BE CORDIAL - BRING SNACKS TO SHARE IF DESIRED (THERE ARE MIXED OPINIONS ON THIS; WE BELIEVE THAT KINDNESS AND AN ASSUMPTION OF GOOD WILL GO A LONG WAY).

* MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE TEAM KNOWS YOUR CHILD AND ISN'T JUST LOOKING AT A DIAGNOSIS AND ASSESSMENT RESULTS TO MAKE DECISIONS. SHARE A VIDEO, STATEMENT FROM YOUR CHILD, A STORY OR BRING THEM IF THEY'RE OLDER AND IT'S APPROPRIATE. EVERY CHILD IS AN INDIVIDUAL, LET YOURS BE KNOWN.

* TAPE RECORD AND/OR TAKE NOTES. WE RECOMMEND RECORDING THE MEETING; BUT NOT ALL FEEL THE NEED TO DO SO.

* DO NOT SIGN IN AGREEMENT TO THE IEP; ONLY SIGN FOR ATTENDANCE.

WHAT TO EXPECT :

* INTRODUCTIONS

* RECEIVE PARENT RIGHTS

* REVIEW OF ASSESSMENTS

* DISCUSSION OF PAST AND PROPOSED GOALS/OBJECTIVES, SERVICES AND PLACEMENT

* PARENTAL CONCERNS/INPUT

* SIGNATURES (WE SUGGEST YOU SIGN ONLY FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE IEP MEETING; BRING THE DRAFT IEP HOME FOR CLOSER REVIEW AND ANY DESIRED OUTSIDE INPUT.)
PARENT TIPS FOR THE IEP

AFTER THE IEP

* DEBRIEF WITH YOUR SUPPORTS. MAKE NOTES OF NEW THOUGHTS OR QUESTIONS.

* SEEK OUTSIDE SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES IF NEEDED (I.E. DSCBA, FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS, ONLINE SUPPORT AND TOPIC GROUPS, DISABILITY RIGHTS AND EDUCATION DEFENSE FUND, DREDF).

* WRITE A FOLLOW-UP LETTER THAT STATES ANY QUESTIONS, CONCERNS/DISAGREEMENTS, APPRECIATIONS/AGREEMENTS AND PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS.

* MAKE A DECISION TO SIGN OFF ON THE IEP IN FULL, IN PART OR NOT AT ALL (NOTE - NEW GOALS AND SERVICES CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL THEY ARE SIGNED OFF ON. ALSO NOTE THAT YOU CAN SIGN OFF IN PART TO THE IEP).

* STAY ON TOP OF THINGS. MAKE SURE YOU GET REGULAR PROGRESS UPDATES AND THAT THE IEP REMAINS APPROPRIATE. MONITOR YOUR CHILD’S PROGRESS.

* KNOW THAT YOU CAN CALL AN IEP MEETING AT ANY TIME. THIS NEEDS TO BE DONE IN WRITING AND THE DISTRICT HAS 30 DAYS IN WHICH TO COMPLY.