

Special Education Soup to Nuts



Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act **IDEIA** 2004

- The federal statute that sets substantive and procedural standards for the provision of special education for students ages 0-22 including early intervention to children with disabilities as well as funding to state and local education agencies.

Public Schools Must Comply with IDEIA

IDEIA provides that public schools must identify students with disabilities, identify their needs, and provide them with a free, appropriate public education (FAPE)

- (20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.)
- Charter schools are public schools. (Educ. Code section 47601(e).)

Special Education

Special education is defined as
Specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of individuals with exceptional needs, whose educational needs cannot be met with modification of the general instruction program.



Why is General Education Intervention Important?

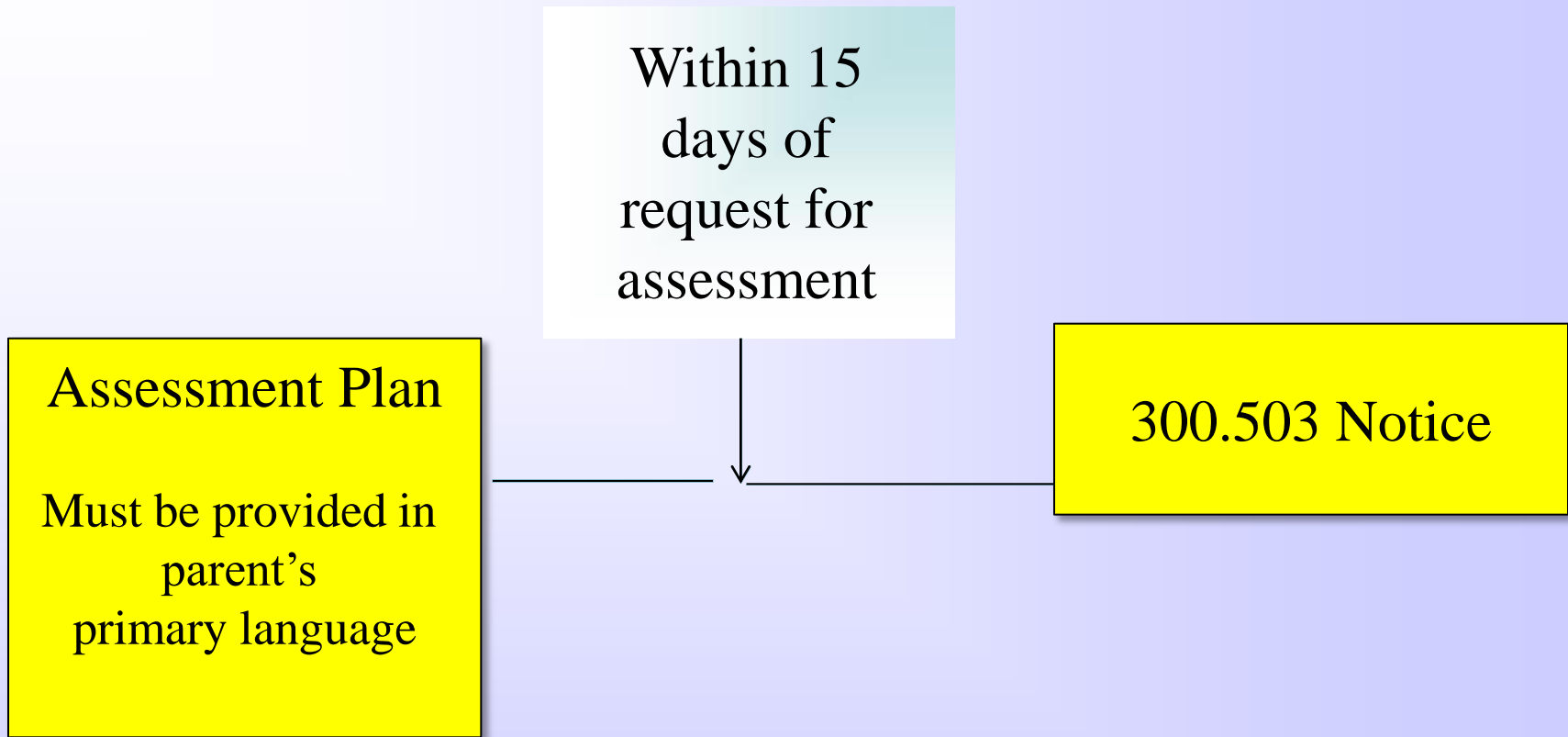
A student shall be referred for special educational instruction and services only after the resources of the regular education program have been considered and, where appropriate, utilized.

California Education Code, Section 56303

Referral for Special Education

- Any person may make formal request for special education assessment
- Request must be in writing
- Use *Request for Special Education Assessment* form
- Determine if accommodations or modifications were implemented
- Determine if requestor wishes to postpone request until accommodations or modifications have been implemented and results evaluated

Assessment Plan or Notice?



If parent consents to assessment plan, all assessment must be completed and IEP meeting held within 60 days after signed assessment plan is received by school

What is an Individualized Education Program? (IEP)

The IEP is a written document for a student with a disability that is developed, reviewed and revised in a meeting that meets the requirements of Federal and State policies. The IEP must be held at least annually to review student's progress in areas such as academics, social-emotional/behavioral, vocational, and ELD.

Recipe for an IEP

- Present levels
- Areas of Educational Need
- Goals
- Placement
- Related services
- Accommodations, Modifications Supports and Services



Students with disabilities are entitled to a FAPE

Free

Appropriate

Public

Education



FAPE

Definitions - 20 U.S.C. 1401(9)

The term "free appropriate public education" means special education and related services that--

(A) have been provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge;

(B) meet the standards of the State educational agency;

(C) include an appropriate preschool, elementary school, or secondary school education in the State involved; and

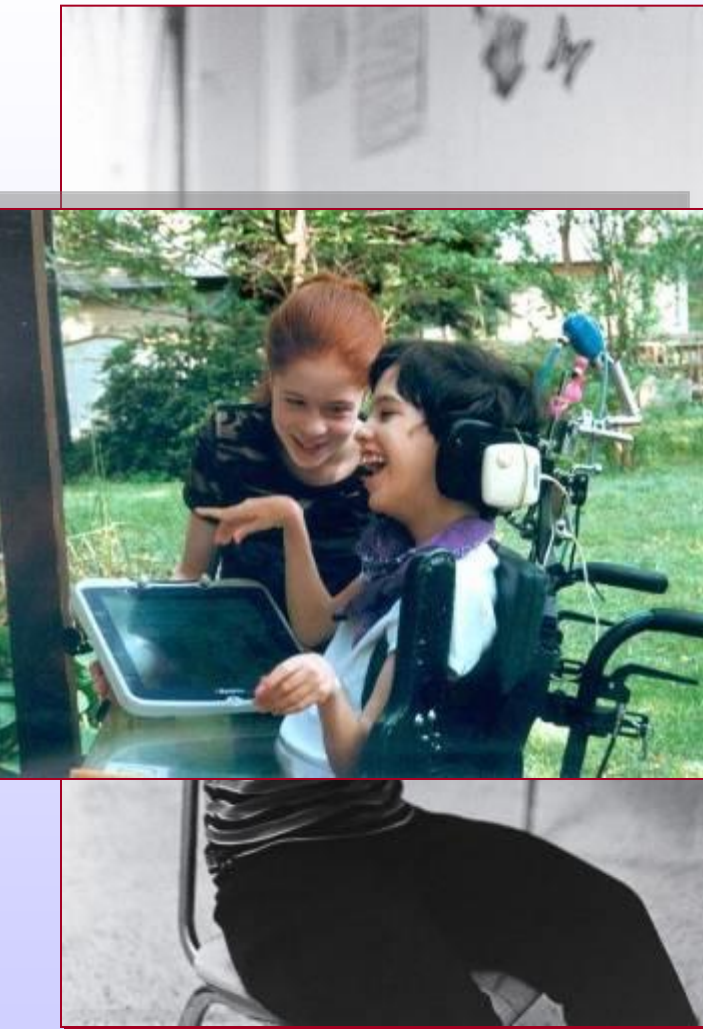
(D) are provided in conformity with the individualized education program.

When is a student not eligible for special education?

A student cannot be determined to be eligible for special education if the determining factor is due to a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math or students with learning difficulties that are due primarily to cultural or economic differences, lack of familiarity with the English language, or limited school experience.

In addition, special education is not designed to meet the needs of students who have temporary physical disabilities.

13 Eligibilities



- ✓ autistic like characteristics/autism
- ✓ deaf-blindness
- ✓ deafness
- ✓ emotional disturbance
- ✓ hearing impairment
- ✓ intellectual disability
- ✓ multiple disabilities
- ✓ orthopedic impairment
- ✓ other health impairment
- ✓ specific learning disability
- ✓ speech or language impairment
- ✓ traumatic brain injury *or*
- ✓ visual impairment (including blindness)



Eligibility of students with disabilities for special education shall be determined by the IEP team according to specific criteria for each of the eligibility categories.

Least Restrictive Environment LRE

To the maximum extent appropriate children with disabilities should be educated with children who are not disabled.



First Consideration:
General Education
Classroom with:

- Modifications
- Supports
- Aids
- Services



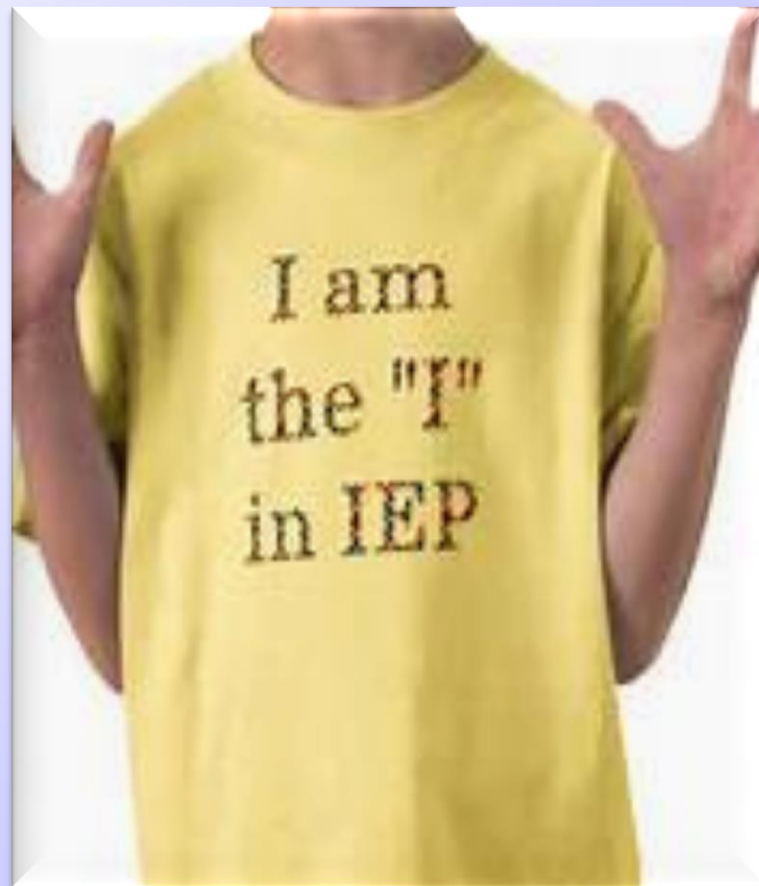
Special classes, separate schools or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment should occur only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Continuum of Placement Options

- General Education (with supports)
- GE with DIS services
- Resource Specialist Program
- Inclusion
- Special Day Program
- Non Public School
- Residential Placement
- Home/Hospital Schooling

Who is on an IEP team?

- Parent*
- Administrator*
- Special Education Teacher*
- General Education Teacher*
- Assessors/Related Service Providers
- Student (if appropriate)
- Transition agency reps.



Related Services

Related services means transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services...

...as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education...



Determination of whether a child requires a related service is based on assessed needs.

Supplementary Aids and Services

Supplementary aids and services means aids, services, and other supports that are provided in regular education classes, other education-related settings, and in extracurricular and nonacademic settings, to enable children with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled children to the maximum extent appropriate.



Schools must maintain and make available to parents upon request:

- Are You Puzzled by Your Child's Special Needs? Brochure
- Student Enrollment Form
- Request for Special Education Assessment Form
- A Parent's Guide to Special Education (Including Procedural Rights and Safeguards)

**You've just consumed
practically the entire
platter of special
education and IDEIA's
most essential concepts
and principles.**

