
What Kind of IEP Meeting is this, Anyway?

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Have you ever been invited to an IEP meeting and wanted to know more about the different types of those meetings? Well, the good news is that there are only **three types of IEP meetings: Initial, Annual, and Re-Evaluation.**

An **Initial IEP meeting** is used to discuss the needs of the child. The team then creates an IEP, which is the document that is the base for every future IEP meeting.

After the initial IEP meeting, every year an **Annual IEP** meeting is held. This gives parents and educators an opportunity to review current supports and services and discuss possible amendments to those, as well as to adjust the goals and objectives of the IEP.

Every three years, the Annual IEP is replaced by a **Re-Evaluation Meeting**, formerly referred to as the Triennial meeting. Along with reviewing past and current assessments, an additional focus of the Re-Evaluation is eligibility for special education services and the appropriate placement of the student, also known as FAPE. The team is required to go through the determination of eligibility in each relevant category. When all things have been considered, the team determines whether the current placement is best serving the student. Since the Re-Evaluation IEP has more breadth than an Annual IEP, these meetings tend to last longer, so make sure they are scheduled for enough time. Your Arc advocate suggests at least two hours in order to properly cover everything needed in a Re-Evaluation IEP meeting.

The **Transition IEP** is not a separate meeting. It is required when the student will be age 16 or older within the next 365 days. The transition IEP is discussed during every IEP thereafter until the student is done with school. A Transition IEP can be part of an Initial IEP, Annual Review IEP, or Re-evaluation IEP. It is not a separate document but a part of the IEP that is required to be included when the student is of age.

So next time you have an IEP scheduled, check to see what type of meeting it is so you can be best prepared. If you have any questions about an IEP meeting, be sure to contact your Arc advocate plenty of time prior to the meeting so you can both be best prepared to be the best advocates possible for your child.

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