



Educational Teams and Roles

Students who receive special education programs and services have an educational plan called an individualized education program (IEP). The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) requires a team of school staff and the parent of the student work together to develop the IEP. There are multiple teams, team members, and roles that contribute to the development of a student's plan.

Teams

Multi-disciplinary Evaluation Team (MET)

The multi-disciplinary evaluation team (MET) is a team of professionals responsible for evaluating a child suspected of having a disability. After the evaluation is complete, the individualized education program (IEP) team determines your child's eligibility based on a recommendation from the MET.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team

If it is determined your child meets special education eligibility, the IEP team creates an IEP to support your child's unique needs. The IEP team must include appropriate school and district staff as well as you, the parent. If appropriate, your child may also be a participant of the team. You or the school may also invite anyone else who has specific knowledge or expertise about your child. The IEP includes modifications, programs, related services, or other supports as deemed appropriate as well as information on how your child's disability impacts his or her learning.

IEP Team Member Roles

General Education Teacher

A general education teacher instructs students on the curriculum used for all students. Your child's general education teacher is a required participant in the IEP if your child is, or may be, participating in general education. The general education teacher may work with a special education teacher or others on your child's IEP team to modify the curriculum, if necessary, to meet your child's unique needs.

Special Education Teacher

A special education teacher has specialized training in disability areas and in supporting students with disabilities. If your child spends any portion of his or her day in a special education program, the special education teacher or a special education provider is a required participant of the IEP team.

School District Representative

A school district representative (e.g., principal, special education director, or other administrator) supervises the provision of services, is required to be a part of the IEP team, and may be needed to support the implementation of the IEP.

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Who May Be Invited to the IEP

Speech and Language Pathologist

A speech and language pathologist is a licensed professional who provides speech and language support individually or in group settings. A speech and language pathologist may help your child with receptive and expressive language and communication, and may provide support for oral motor development or other related needs.

Occupational Therapist

An occupational therapist is a licensed professional who provides support to enhance your child's ability to access learning and be successful in the learning environment. This may include working on handwriting or fine motor skills, helping to organize your child's workspace, working with the teacher to modify the classroom and adapt learning materials, helping support your child's personal living needs such as feeding and dressing, or support for sensory needs.

Physical Therapist

A physical therapist is a licensed professional who provides supports for improving mobility. This may include promoting motor development and designing and implementing physical therapy interventions. A physical therapist may also instruct other caregivers regarding the physical management of your child or select, modify, or customize adaptive equipment and assistive technology.

School Social Worker

A school social worker is a licensed professional who may consult with teachers, parents, and administrators as well as provide counseling and support to your child. A school social worker may assist with positive behavior interventions and supports, academic and classroom supports, and helps to address social-emotional needs.

School Psychologist

A school psychologist is a professional who is certified and has knowledge about certain disabilities and conducts psychological and academic assessments. A school psychologist may provide direct support and interventions to your child and may also consult with teachers, families, and other school staff.

Resources

- [Center for Parent Information and Resources \(CPIR\) — The IEP Team](#)
- [Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education \(MARSE\)](#)
- [Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education \(MDE OSE\): Individualized Education Program \(IEP\) Development Process](#)
- [PACER Center: Who is On My Child's IEP Team?](#)



[Michigan Alliance for Families:
Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team \(MET\)](#)