



Before

- Write out your parent concerns and be prepared to share them.
- Ask to have reports/goals at least three to five days in advance.
- Ask to receive any requests for team member excusals prior to the meeting. *The district needs your signature to excuse team members.
- Invite a support person. You have the right to invite *anyone* who has knowledge of your child (e.g. friend, outside service provider, grandparent, advocate, etc.)
- Review your [parent rights](#) *prior to* the meeting and make sure you understand them.
- Consider asking to record the meeting (at least 24 hours in advance). It can be difficult to take notes in the meeting while advocating for your child and the District's notes often favor the District.

During

- Ask the team to review the entirety of the IEP. There's no need to rush through such an important document.
- Share your parent concerns at the start of the meeting and circle back to them - were they adequately addressed?
- Ask for specifics: Are services individual or group? Push in or pull out? How will goals be measured? How will staff be trained? What data was used to drive each recommendation?
- IEP meetings can be emotional (we are talking about the most important thing - your child ♥). Ask for a break or to reconvene if needed.
- Consider the progress your student has made. If there is not significant growth, ask the team what will be done differently this time around. Does the student need an increase in services, different goals, accommodations, or even a change of placement?
- Understand that you do not have to agree to anything during the IEP meeting. You deserve to consider everything outside of such a high stakes environment. Do not sign for consent at the meeting.

After

- Send IEP suggestions and edits to the team - Are you happy with the goals? Do you agree with the service offer? Ask to chat with your team.
- Take as much time as you need to consider the IEP before signing for consent. If you still don't agree with some parts of the IEP, you can sign with exception, agreeing only to certain parts of the offer.