

Parent Spotlight on IEPs and Common Core State Standards and Assessments



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This booklet was written to provide information to parents and others about Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and the newly adopted academic standards, the Common Core State Standards.

How are standards reflected on my child's IEP?

Your child's IEP lays out a plan for providing to your child the special instruction, services, and accommodations needed to make progress in the general curriculum. Standards are the basis for that curriculum. Standards-based IEPs indicate an IEP planning process that recognizes the importance of academic standards in the educational system.

What is the relation of my child's present levels of performance to standards?

Present levels of performance (officially called "present levels of academic achievement and functional performance – PLAAFPs) are listed in your child's IEP. These statements should describe how your child's disability affects progress in the general education curriculum. With a good understanding of performance, strengths, and needs, a stronger standards-based IEP can be developed.

How do the goals and objectives on my child's IEP relate to standards?

The goals and objectives listed on your child's IEP identify the educational aims for your child. Meeting these goals and objectives is supported by the special instruction, services, and accommodations noted on your child's IEP. Goals and objectives should be the guideposts for determining whether the special instruction, services, and accommodations are working as intended.



What does my child's IEP have to do with the assessments my child takes?

As part of the IEP process, the team, including you (and your child when appropriate) determines how your child participates in state and district assessments. One decision is whether your child will participate in the general assessment or in an alternate assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Another decision is about the accommodations that your child might need to participate in the assessment. This information is documented on your child's IEP.

What do I need to ask about IEPs and the Common Core State Standards?

You should ask how the Common Core State Standards were considered in setting the goals and objectives in your child's IEP. You also should ask whether the special instruction, services, and accommodations listed in your child's IEP ensure access to the standards-based curriculum. Also ask your child's teacher about the specific standards that are being addressed in the classroom.

Where can I get more information on IEPs and standards?

There are other booklets in this series. They are *Parent Spotlight on Common Core State Standards for Students with Disabilities* and *Parent Spotlight on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities*. These are available from NCEO (www.nceo.info) or from your state's department of education.

Information on "standards-based IEPs" can be found on many websites, including that of the National Center on Learning Disabilities (www.nclld.org), "Understanding the Standards-Based IEP". Another practical resource is the document, "A Seven-Step Process to Creating Standards-based IEPs" prepared by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (www.nasdse.org).

