

Five Things Parents Should Know: Individualized Education Plan (“IEP”) Basics

RHODE ISLAND EDUCATION LAW

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11/22/16

1. REQUESTING AN EVALUATION

The first step in having your child identified as a special needs student is to refer him/her for a special education evaluation by the district’s Evaluation Team. A parent, teacher, or school official may refer a child. Before, or in addition to, your referral, you may also request that classroom modifications be made to the general education classroom. (RI Reg. 300.300-300.311).

2. EVALUATION DETERMINATION

Within **10 school days** of receiving the referral, the Evaluation Team must determine if the child needs to be evaluated. (RI Reg. 300.301(c); 300.321).

3. COMPLETING THE EVALUATION

If it is determined that an evaluation is needed, the child’s parents must then give consent. The school then has **60 calendar days** from receipt of the parents’ consent to complete the evaluation and the determination of eligibility process. (RI Reg. 300.301(c)(2)).

4. THE IEP

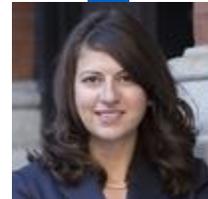
If the Evaluation Team finds the child is eligible for special education services, the IEP team then has **15 school days** from receipt of the Evaluation Team’s written report to plan an IEP for the child. (RI Reg. 300.301(c)(3)).

5. REEVALUATION

Generally, reevaluation meetings are scheduled **once a year**. If it is determined that the child still qualifies for special education services, an IEP meeting must be held within **15 school days** of this determination. (RI Reg. 300.303).



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