IEP BEST PRACTICES

Here are some ways you can make the IEP process more meaningful & productive.

1. General Ed teachers - Stay for the entire meeting if possible. Many services, goals, and accommodations that are discussed take place in your classroom and you need to give valuable feedback. This also falls under the general education teachers’ responsibility to assist in the development of the entire IEP. See CA EC 56341.

2. Ask for training (supports & services) if you feel you need it to help you fully implement a child’s IEP. CA EC Sec. 56345(a)(4)

3. If you feel an IEP isn't working, you may call for a review IEP. Be prepared to document the accommodations and any other research-based practices you have been using with that student. If an IEP isn't working, ask the special education teacher on your campus for additional ideas or other accommodations you can try. CA EC Sec. 56343

4. You must be knowledgeable of the IEP contents and your responsibilities to assist the student in meeting their goals. If you don't have access to this, ask your Special Ed teacher for a copy and keep it in a secure location. CA EC Sec. 56347

5. You have the right to speak up to assist a parent or guardian of a special education student to obtain services and accommodations for that student. This means that no district employee may directly or indirectly use their influence to intimidate, threaten, coerce a teacher in order to prevent you from helping that person. CA EC Sec. 56046 (a)

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE?

Even if you don't agree with everything in the IEP, you still need to sign that you were in attendance. If you feel strongly about noting this in the IEP, ask to have your concerns documented in the notes. You could also ask for a trial run of certain accommodations to see if they work and then re-convene the meeting in two to three months to review how progress is being made. Remember, the purpose of the IEP is to help the student.

WHAT IF I CAN'T MAKE THE MEETING?

The parent and district can agree in writing to dismiss the attendance of an IEP member, in whole or in part, however, the member still needs to submit IEP feedback in writing prior to the meeting. (Cal. EC Sec. 56341 (f) & (g).

USEFUL RESOURCES:

ADVOCACY: www.disabilityrightsca.org