

Developing High-Quality Individualized Education Programs

Want more information about an IRIS Module before diving into the resource itself? Module Spotlights are a great place to start. Learn about the module's main topic, expert contributors, and key resources and activities, all in one place.

Developing a Better IEP

Public school classrooms today are made up of diverse students with a wide variety of strengths and challenges. Among these students are those with disabilities, whose educations are guided by individualized education programs (IEPs).

A U.S. Supreme Court case, *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District* (2017), has clarified the substantive standard for determining whether a student's IEP is sufficient to confer educational benefit. But what is a "high-quality" IEP and how should educators go about developing them?



Above: Recent legislation and litigation have changed how schools must think about and develop student IEPs.

Meet the Resource

[HTTPS://IRIS.PEABODY.VANDERBILT.EDU/MODULE/IEP01/](https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/iep01/)

Available now from IRIS, *IEPs: Developing High-Quality Individualized Education Programs* is designed to help answer these questions and more. This resource explains the step-by-step process of developing high-quality IEPs, as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and then provides additional considerations in light of the *Endrew F.* ruling.

More specifically, users will find:

- A detailed background of the circumstances leading up to *Endrew F.*, as well as how that decision translates into specific expectations and requirements for IEPs
- An overview of an IEP's required components, including guidelines and recommendations for IEP teams as they work through the development process
- Notes on some of the common errors that occur during the IEP development process and pointers on how best to recognize and avoid them
- Audio interviews with experts like Johnny Collett, Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, U.S. Department of Education; Larry Wexler, Director of OSEP's Research to Practice Division; and Mitchell Yell, Fred and Francis Lester Palmetto Chair in Teacher Education, University of South Carolina

Substantive Requirement Guideline

Develop challenging, ambitious, and measurable annual IEP goals, based on the identified educational needs of the student.

Above: Tips and reminders throughout the module help explain the IEP development process.

Module Features

Every IRIS Module is packed with informative, practical resources designed to help you access and understand the module's main content. In *IEPs: Developing High-Quality Individualized Education Programs*, users will find:

- Explanations to help users understand some of the often complex issues involved in the legislation, regulations, and litigation surrounding IEP development
- Detailed Do's & Don'ts and guiding questions that IEP team members should keep in mind when they set out to develop challenging, ambitious, and measurable annual goals
- IEP Toolboxes containing links to related IRIS resources, outside information, other OSEP-funded centers, additional handouts, and more

IEP Toolbox

This toolbox describes additional resources related to the information presented on this page. These resources are provided for informational purposes only for those who wish to learn more about the topic. It is not necessary for those working through this module to read or refer to all of these additional resources to understand the content.

[OSEP Memo: Questions and Answers \(Q&A\) on U. S. Supreme Court Case Decision *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District Re-1*](#)

*This Q&A, developed by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), gives parents and other stakeholders information on the issues addressed in *Endrew F.* and the impact of the Court's decision on the implementation of IDEA.*

Above: These IEP Toolboxes can be found on the module's Perspectives & Resources pages. Follow the links to augment the module's primary content.

Activity Spotlight

IRIS Modules are designed to be interactive, and *IEPs: Developing High-Quality Individualized Education Programs* is no exception. Put into practice what you've learned about procedural errors to identify whether a common error has occurred and, if so, what specific type was committed.

What Are IRIS Modules?

The signature resource of the IRIS Center, IRIS *STAR Legacy Modules* offer in-depth looks at topics like differentiated instruction, assessment, behavior and classroom management, mathematics, reading, and many others of importance to educators in today's classrooms. These instructional resources provide content in a variety of engaging formats: text, video demonstrations, audio interviews with experts and practicing educators, and interactive activities.

What Is IRIS?

IRIS develops and disseminates free online open educational resources (OERs) about evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices. Intended for use in personnel preparation and professional development, these instructional resources are designed to help current and future educators improve the learning and behavioral outcomes of all students, especially struggling learners and those with disabilities.

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Activity

Revisit the Challenge: Common Procedural Errors

As you saw in the Challenge, Mr. Anaya had some concerns about the way the IEP process was being handled at Washington County Elementary. For each of the examples below, decide whether a procedural error occurred and, if so, identify what type of error was committed.

1. Mrs. Esposito has been identified as Sienna's special education teacher. Is this a procedural error?

Correct!

Select the type of procedural error:

- Determining placement before programming
- Failure to involve parents in the IEP process
- Predetermining Sienna's placement or services

2. Mrs. Esposito is developing parts of Sienna's IEP by selecting IEP goals from a bank of computerized options. Is this a procedural error?

Above: Practice makes perfect, and IRIS Modules will help you to practice with the module's main content.