

## HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT AT SCHOOL WHEN THERE ARE SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

- **Educate yourself with general special education processes and procedures**
  - Visit websites
  - Attend trainings and conferences
  - Search videos and information online
  - Join a parent listserv
  - Seek out support
- **Become familiar with the general sections of the IEP**
- **Become familiar with your student's IEP**
- **Educate yourself on your student's disability**
- **Ask questions or seek clarification of what you do not understand**
- **Make sure to receive IEP progress reports as often as report cards are issued**
- **Stay in touch with the IEP team; general education teachers, special education teacher, speech therapist, occupational therapist, mental health, etc. – group emails work well**
- **Ask how you can support your student's learning at home**
  - Academic skills
  - Therapeutic skills – speech, motor, social/emotional/behavioral
- **Prepare for the annual IEP meeting**
  - Send questions, concerns, or issues you wish to discuss with the IEP team ahead of time and in writing
  - If it is a Re-Evaluation IEP (every 3 years), request assessment information be sent to you in writing prior to the meeting
- **At the meeting:**
  - Ask clarifications
  - Compromise, if necessary
    - Skills can be worked on in a variety of ways
    - Your input on what you want your child to have vs. what programs/services the school district has in place vs. resources – staff/materials
- **Beyond:**
  - Stay in touch with your team
  - Help your child at home
  - Resolve issues sooner vs. later; go through the chain of command
  - **Visit [sites.ed.gov/idea](https://sites.ed.gov/idea) – [parentcenterhub.org/iep](https://parentcenterhub.org/iep) – [wrightslaw.com](https://www.wrightslaw.com)**