

10 WAYS TO WRITE MEANINGFUL INITIAL IEPS

1. START WITH A VISION:

Define what success looks like for the student, guiding the IEP with a clear, long-term vision in mind.

2. SEPARATE EVALUATION FROM IEP DEVELOPMENT:

Treat the evaluation and IEP as distinct steps. Use the evaluation for eligibility, and the IEP for planning how to support the student's growth.

3. INTERPRET, DON'T DUPLICATE:

Use the evaluation data to inform the present levels of performance. Focus on how the student can participate, access, and progress, rather than just restating the evaluation summary.

4. PRIORITIZE IEP-WORTHY GOALS:

Identify and set goals that stem directly from the present levels and are essential for the student's success, rather than addressing every "deficit" identified.

5. HIGHLIGHT STRENGTHS:

Incorporate the student's strengths in the IEP to create a balanced approach that motivates and supports the student's overall development.

6. FOCUS ON ACCESS, PARTICIPATION, AND PROGRESS:

Ensure the IEP is centered around strategies that increase the student's access to the curriculum, participation in class activities, and overall academic progress.

7. AVOID OVERLOADING WITH GOALS:

Set a focused number of goals that are achievable and impactful, avoiding the temptation to address every possible area of need.

8. USE CLEAR, MEASURABLE LANGUAGE:

Write goals and objectives in clear, measurable terms, making it easier to track progress and ensure the IEP remains actionable.

9. COLLABORATE WITH THE IEP TEAM:

Engage all members of the IEP team, including parents, teachers, and specialists, to create a comprehensive plan tailored to the student's needs.

10. REGULARLY REVIEW AND REVISE:

Treat the IEP as a living document. Regularly review and update it based on the student's progress and any changes in their needs or circumstances.

LEARN HOW TO WRITE IEPS THAT INSPIRE POSSIBILITY >>

