

Welcome to IEP Basics

Welcome! This course will give you a clear, simple introduction to special education and IEPs. You'll find short videos, handy tools, and useful links in every module to help you feel informed and ready to advocate for your child.

Course Objective

This course is designed to help you get comfortable with the basics of special education and the IEP process. You'll learn about what an IEP is, how it works, the laws that protect your child, and what your rights are as a parent. By the end, you'll feel more confident speaking up, participating in IEP meetings, and making sure your child gets the support they need to thrive at school.

Module 1: Welcome and Course Introduction

- Meet your instructor, Susan Kendig, a parent and special education advocate.
- Learn what this course is about: understanding your child's IEP and how to be an active partner in the process.
- Get a roadmap of what's ahead: 5 simple modules packed with examples, tips, and downloadable resources.
- Understand why your voice matters as a parent advocate.

Module 2: The Purpose of an IEP

- Learn what an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is—and what it isn't.
- Understand how the IEP supports your child's unique learning needs.
- Get familiar with the IDEA law that protects your child's rights.
- Understand your role as an equal member of the IEP team.

Module 3: The Key Sections in an IEP Document

- Explore the five key areas of your child's IEP:
 1. Present Levels of Academic Achievement & Functional Performance (PLAAFP)
 2. Goals and Objectives
 3. Accommodations and Modifications
 4. Special Education and Related Services
 5. Placement and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Learn how understanding these sections will help you advocate with confidence.



Welcome to IEP Basics (continued)

Module 4: Parents' Rights

- Get to know your legal rights under IDEA.
- Learn how to request evaluations or services.
- Know how to call an IEP meeting at any time.
- Discover tips for working collaboratively with your child's school team.

Module 5: Next Steps and Resources

- Learn how to stay involved and monitor your child's progress.
- Discover key websites and organizations for ongoing support (Understood.org, TheIEPSpecialist.com, COPAA, and more).
- Find out how to download helpful tools and checklists.
- Build your confidence as your child's best advocate.

