

Top 5 Tips

For IDEA Implementation

1



Operationalize FAPE

Have a clear understanding of the school's obligation to propose FAPE based on current, unique educational needs. What bundle of services and supports does the student need in order to make rigorous but reasonable progress?

2



Make Team Decisions

When it comes to IEPs, no single person acts as decision-maker. IEP decisions are made by TEAMS! The collective wisdom of a team is far stronger than single input decision making. Remember, the TEAM includes the parent! Train strong team leaders to facilitate the IEP team process.

3



Use Data

Make good decisions based on comprehensive evaluations, classroom assessments, and progress monitoring data. Let the data guide your team!

4



Implement the IEP

IEPs must be implemented as written. No free-styling in IDEA! The IEP is a "quasi-contract" and must be implemented or amended based on current educational needs.

5



Monitor Progress

Regularly and frequently. Watch out for stagnate progress or unexpected progress.
RECONVENE - REVIEW - RESTRATEGIZE - REVISE

Lessons **5** Learned

For IDEA Implementation

1



Consider the Whole Child

When reviewing needs, concerns, assessments, discipline, or amendments, look at the whole child. Avoid a piecemeal approach to special education.

2



DO NOT Exclude Parents

The parents have an absolute right to be involved in special education decisions regarding their child. Consider ALL parent requests and suggestions, then determine next steps based on the needs of the student.

3



Use PWN Wisely

This form tells the FAPE story for each student. Document the good work of the team. Memorialize parent participation.

4



No Parallel Universe

Ensure that IEPs, services, and supports are designed to help students make progress in the general curriculum. It is the law, and it's what students' need.

5



Absolutely NO Freestyling

No unilateral changes to the IEP. Implement it as written or amend based on the student's changing needs.