



Families Together, Inc.



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# Connections

Winter 2016

A quarterly publication from Families Together, Inc., the [Parent Training and Information](#) and [Health Information Center](#) for the state of Kansas

**Question:** "The school contacted me about setting up an IEP meeting for my child. What is an IEP and who is on the team?"

This is a great question and one which is asked by most parents after they receive that phone call. Here is a short and sweet summary of the IEP and the IEP Team.

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written statement of the educational program designed to meet a child's individual needs.

Every child who receives special education services must have an IEP. That's why the process of developing this vital document is of great interest and importance to educators, administrators, and families alike.

## What's in an IEP?

Each child's IEP must contain specific information, as listed within the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) our nation's special education law. This includes (but is not limited to):

- the child's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, describing how the child is currently doing in school and how the child's disability affects his or her involvement and progress in the general curriculum;

- annual goals for the child, meaning what parents and the school team think he or she can reasonably accomplish in a year;

- the special education and related services to be provided to the child, including supplementary aids and services (such as a communication device) and changes to the program or supports for school personnel;

- how much of the school day the child will be educated separately from nondisabled children or not participate in extracurricular or other nonacademic activities such as lunch or clubs;

- how the child is to participate in state and district-wide assessments, including what modifications to tests the child needs;

- when services and modifications will begin, how often they will be provided, where they will be provided, and how long they will last; and,

- how school personnel will measure the child's progress toward the annual goals and how parents will be notified.

## Who is the IEP team?

IDEA (at §300.321) describes the IEP team as including the following members:

- the parents of the child;
- not less than one regular education teacher of the child;
- not less than one special education teacher of the child;
- a representative of the public agency who is qualified to provide, or supervise the provision of, specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of children with disabilities; is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum; and is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the public agency;
- an individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results;
- other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child, (invited at the discretion of the parent or the agency); and,
- the child (when appropriate).

**Together, these people will work as a team to develop the child's IEP.**

If you'd like more information about what an IEP means to you and your child, please contact [Families Together, Inc.](#)

Pregunta: "Acabo de recibir una llamada de la escuela de mi hijo. El director dijo que mi hijo necesita un IEP y necesitamos establecer una reunión con el equipo del IEP. ¿Qué es un IEP y quién está en el equipo? "

Esta es una gran pregunta y la que se le pide a la mayoría de los padres después de recibir esa llamada telefónica. Este es un breve y dulce resumen del IEP y el equipo del IEP.

Un Programa de Educación Individualizado (IEP) es una declaración escrita del programa educativo diseñado para satisfacer las necesidades individuales del niño.

Todos los niños que reciben servicios de educación especial deben tener un IEP. Es por eso que el proceso de desarrollar este documento vital es de gran interés e importancia para educadores, administradores y familias por igual.

### ¿Qué contiene un IEP?

El IEP de cada niño debe contener información específica, como se indica en IDEA, la ley de educación especial de nuestra nación. Esto incluye (pero no está limitado a):

- los niveles actuales de rendimiento académico del niño;
- rendimiento funcional, que describe cómo el niño está haciendo actualmente en la escuela y cómo la discapacidad del niño afecta su participación y el progreso en el plan de estudios general;
- objetivos anuales para el niño, es decir, lo que los padres y el

equipo escolar piensan que él o ella puede lograr razonablemente en un año;

- la educación especial y los servicios conexos que se prestarán al niño, incluidas las ayudas y servicios suplementarios (como un dispositivo de comunicación) y los cambios en el programa o los apoyos para el personal de la escuela;

- cuánto del día escolar el niño será educado por separado de los niños no discapacitados o no participar en actividades extracurriculares u otras actividades no académicas tales como almuerzo o clubes;

- cómo (y si) que el niño participe en evaluaciones estatales y distritales, incluyendo las modificaciones de las pruebas que el niño necesita;

- cuándo comenzarán los servicios y modificaciones, la frecuencia con la que se proporcionarán, dónde se proporcionarán y cuánto durarán; y

- cómo el personal de la escuela medirá el progreso del niño hacia las metas anuales.

### ¿Quién es el equipo del IEP?

IDEA (en §300.321) describe al equipo IEP como incluyendo los siguientes miembros:

- los padres del niño;
- no menos de un maestro de educación regular del niño;
- no menos de un maestro de educación especial del niño;

- un representante de la agencia pública que esté capacitado para proporcionar o supervisar la provisión de una instrucción especialmente diseñada para satisfacer las necesidades únicas de los niños con discapacidades; Tiene conocimiento del currículo de educación general; Y tiene conocimiento de la disponibilidad de recursos de la agencia pública;

- un individuo que puede interpretar las implicaciones educativas de los resultados de la evaluación;

- otras personas que tengan conocimiento o experiencia especial con respecto al niño (invitado a discreción del padre o la agencia); y

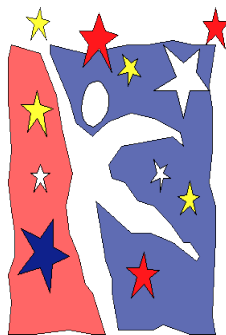
- el niño con discapacidad (cuando corresponda).

Juntos, estas personas trabajarán como un equipo para desarrollar el IEP del niño.

Si desea obtener más información sobre lo que significa un IEP para usted y su hijo, comuníquese con Familias Unidas, Inc.



# Education Advocate Update



The end of the first semester is quickly approaching which means grade cards and progress notes. Please insure you receive progress notes on each child for whom you are the [education advocate](#). This will keep you informed of their progress or lack thereof. For those of you who are serving for a 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade student, passing grades mean credit accumulation. If your student is not accumulating credit, he or she is in danger of not graduating on time or even at all. If a student is failing a class, this may very well be a red flag that more support is needed or something needs to change. An IEP team meeting may be necessary to discuss, address, and implement new strategies for student success. As an education advocate, you always have the right to request an IEP team meeting for a reasonable purpose.

Many IEP meetings are held in the second semester of school. If you have any questions or concerns about the IEP process, don't hesitate to contact one of Families Together centers. We are here to help you as you help the students for whom you advocate! Have a wonderful, relaxing holiday season!



## Family Enrichment Weekend

**February 2-3, 2017, Wichita**

Family Enrichment Weekends are events for families that include a child, birth through 21, who has a exceptionality, and is still attending school. Parents attend workshops and discussion groups while the kids participate in fun, age-appropriate activities. The kids are matched with a volunteer, usually college students, to assist them throughout the day. At this conference, you will learn how to be a responsible team member and learn tips to help you successfully manage your child's services. For more information and to receive an application to attend, please call the [Garden City](#) office at 1-888-820-6364 or [Wichita](#) office at 1-888-815-6364.

## From the Director's Desk

Dear Parents and Volunteer Education Advocates:

All the staff and board of Families Together wish you a wonderful holiday season. It has been a pleasure to serve many of you during 2016.

As the year draws to a close, please remember Families Together in your year-end giving. Your contribution – no matter the amount – helps us provide services to more families like yours. Please tell your family and friends about the help you received from Families Together and ask them to pay it forward. You might consider honoring someone with a gift to Families Together if they are one of the "has everything" people on your list this year. The Donate button on our website at [www.familiestogetherinc.org](http://www.familiestogetherinc.org) is an easy way to contribute. You can also send your contribution to our [Administrative Center](#) at:

Families Together, Inc.  
3033 W. Second St. N.  
Wichita, Kansas 67203

May your holidays be happy and healthy!

Merry Christmas!

*Connie*



# Families Make the Difference

Families Together, Inc. founded in 1982, serves as the Parent Training and Information Center and Family-to-Family Health Information Center for Kansas and provides opportunities for families to come together and meet other families who are navigating the special education and disability services maze. Each year, Families Together, Inc. provides, without fees, direct support to thousands of Kansas families. In addition, through workshops, conferences and partnerships with state, local and national organizations, Families Together provides training to nearly 4,000 families and professionals working with children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs.

**Garden City Center 1-888-820-6364**

**gardencity@famielstogetherinc.org**

**Topeka Center 1-800-264-6343**

**topeka@famielstogetherinc.org**

**Wichita Center 1-888-815-6364**

**wichita@famielstogetherinc.org**

**[www.famielstogetherinc.org](http://www.famielstogetherinc.org)**

## Calendar of Events

Check our website for added events or visit our Facebook page!

<b><i>Jan 18, 2017</i></b>	<b><i><u>Education Advocate Training, Kanas City</u></i></b>	<b><i>800-264-6343</i></b>
<b><i>Feb 3-4, 2017</i></b>	<b><i><u>Family Enrichment Weekend, Wichita</u></i></b>	<b><i>800-820-6364</i></b>
<b><i>Feb 16, 2017</i></b>	<b><i><u>Education Advocate Training, Wichita</u></i></b>	<b><i>800-264-6343</i></b>
<b><i>March 7, 2017</i></b>	<b><i><u>Education Advocate Training, Parsons</u></i></b>	<b><i>800-264-6343</i></b>
<b><i>April 11, 2017</i></b>	<b><i><u>Education Advocate Training, Hays</u></i></b>	<b><i>800-264-6343</i></b>

Return Service Requested

Families Together, Inc.  
5612 SW Barrington Court South  
Suite 120  
Topeka, KS 66614