

IEP Development: As noted earlier, a general education teacher must be part of the development of any individualized education program. During this stage, it is the general education teacher who:

- Ensures classroom data is incorporated with assessment data in the present level of performance.
- Assists in the team in identifying what support the student needs to access the general education curriculum. You are the content specialist.
- Contributes to the decisions regarding access to standardized testing and appropriate accommodations and modifications. You know the testing program and what supports have been most promising and helpful for the student.
- Collaborates with the team, including the family, to create a reasonable plan that can be implemented and addresses the concerns and challenges that have been identified.

IEP Implementation: A general education teacher's work is rarely complete! Most students with learning disabilities will continue to receive much of their instruction in the general education setting. Where inclusive practices are appropriate, the student may continue full-time in your class. During this stage, it is the general education teacher who:

- Shares observations. Your continued communication with special education teachers and related service providers is critical to ensuring the program developed at an IEP meeting is actualized. Sharing informal observations, work samples, questions, and insights can lead to effective teamwork.
- Shares the classroom with other team members. Whether brief visits for observations or daily collaborative teaching with a special education teacher, your classroom may never be quite the same! Thank you for welcoming us and allowing us to be a part of your class!
- Reflects on the effectiveness of the plan and student progress. Your input makes the evaluation and refinement of IEPs meaningful.

General education teachers, how do we need you? Special education can not fulfill its role without personnel learning from and with the regular classroom teacher. Your knowledge of the day-to-day classroom experience and curriculum is critical when developing effective interventions. Your observational skills and knowledge of child development provide a wealth of information needed for decisions throughout the special education process. Your willingness to serve as a liaison to support families new to the process can greatly reduce anxiety and stress. Thank you for being there to serve all our students! Help us know how special education can best support you, as well!