

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

IEP Toolkit, Topic 3

1 About Writing Effective Goals and Objectives

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Contents

Goals and Objectives

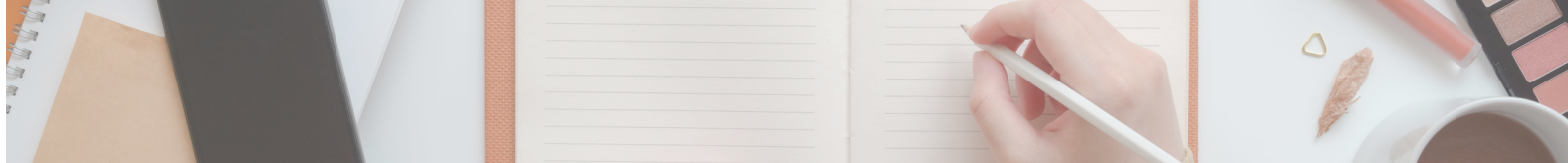
Writing Effective *Goals and Objectives*

According to IDEA Sec. 300.320 Definition of Individualized Education Program (a) General. As used in this part, the term individualized education program or IEP means a written statement for each child with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in a meeting in accordance with IDEA, Sec. 300.320 through 300.324, and that must include--

(2) (i) A statement of measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals designed to--

(A) Meet the child's needs that result from the child's disability to enable the child to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum; and

(B) Meet each of the child's other educational needs that result from the child's disability;



Why are IEP Goals and Objectives Important?

“The goals and objectives or benchmarks provide a mechanism for determining whether the child is progressing in the special education program and the general education curriculum, and whether the placement and services are appropriate to meet the child's identified educational needs” (NASSET, 2023). In addition, there are several practical benefits that emphasize the importance of having effective goals and objectives in the IEP. Effective IEP goals and objectives:

- **provide a roadmap to design and implement instruction** that is specifically targeted to address the student's areas of need.
- **comply with the provisions under the IDEA and FAPE** while also ensuring that the student's educational program addresses their individual needs.
- should be developed in a way that allows educators to **track the student's progress over time and determine the need for additional strategies and interventions** that are effective to help a student achieve their individualized goals.
- serve as a **communication tool between educators, families, and other professionals** with common understanding of the student's areas of need, desired outcomes, and strategies to improve student success.
- **provide opportunity for self-advocacy and motivation.**
- help identify **the skills and knowledge that students need to develop in order to successfully transition** to post-secondary education, employment or independent living.

Components and Guiding Questions

Condition	Target	Performance Criterion	Timeline
What skill does the student need to demonstrate?	In what context does the student need to demonstrate that skill?	How will we know the student has achieved the goal?	By when can the student be expected to achieve the goal?

Teacher Tips and Strategies

(IRIS Center, 2023)



Strategies for Setting High-Quality Academic Individualized Education Program Goals



IDEA and FAPE - Understanding Functional Skills and Determining IEP Team Responsibilities

Parent and Family Corner



IEP Goals, in a Nutshell

Center for Parent and Family Information & Resources

IEP Tip Sheet: Goals and Objectives

PROGRESS Center

Benchmarks or Short-Term Objectives

Center for Parent and Family Information & Resources