

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA)

Public Law 108-446 - 108th Congress

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Definition: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) is a law ensuring services to children in the United States with disabilities. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

Services Provided:

- IDEA provides early intervention, special education and related services for children with hearing impairments, deafness, speech impairments or language impairments
- Early intervention services are for children birth through age two and are designed to meet the developmental needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities, such as speech-language pathology, audiology services, sign language and cued language services, provided by qualified personnel, including special educators, speech-language pathologists and audiologists.
- Special education services are for children and youth ages 3-21 who require additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a regular education environment
- Related services include transportation, developmental, corrective, and other supportive services, including speech-language pathology, audiology services and interpreting services.

Eligibility:

- IDEA Part C - Infants and toddlers with disabilities birth-2
- IDEA Part B - Children and youth ages 3-21
- A specific learning disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may result in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations.

Insurance coverage:

- Under current regulations, public agencies must obtain informed written consent from parents to use a child's or parents' public benefits or insurance to pay for services identified in the child's Individualized Education Plan. Consent must be obtained for a specified type (e.g., speech therapy) and amount of services (e.g., number of hours per week) for a specified period of time (e.g., a year). If the type or amount of service changes, or if the amount charged for services changes, the public agency must obtain parental consent covering the change in services or costs to be charged to the child's or parents' public benefits or insurance.