



Dates, Frequency, Location, and Duration of Services

This tip sheet provides information about dates, frequency, location, and duration of services. It includes a brief summary of federal regulations and tips for implementation. To learn more, review the additional resources and check with state law for additional requirements.

What Does IDEA Say?

According to [IDEA Sec. 300.320 \(a\)\(7\)](#), each child's IEP must contain...

"(7) The projected date for the beginning of the services and modifications...and the anticipated frequency, location, and duration of those services and modifications."

Breakdown of this IEP Requirement

When defining dates, frequency, location, and duration of services, inclusion in the general education setting must be considered first as the presumed placement of every student with a disability. Teams will use data outlined in the present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, or PLAAFP statement, to make decisions about each requirement. How often and how long individualized education program (IEP) services will be delivered will affect whether expected progress can be made on measurable annual goals. When making decisions regarding these elements, it is important to remember that services should be provided in the general education setting to the maximum extent appropriate.

What must be included in the IEP?

What does this mean?

Tips for success

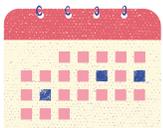
Date of service initiation



The date that the special education and related services identified in the IEP begins.

- Start as soon as possible [Sec. 300.323(c)(2)].

Frequency



The number of times per week the special education and related services will be delivered.

- Ensure the frequency provides sufficient opportunities for practice and corrective feedback.

Duration



The length of time of each session, often represented in minutes, of services to be provided to the student.

- Be mindful of the attention span of a student related to students' age or disability.

Location



The placement where the services will be provided.

- Do not determine until all of the other IEP components have been determined.
- Clarify the level of resource commitment.





Where can you learn more?



Service Delivery (Component of the IEP) (Center for Parent Information and Resources). This article describes considerations for documenting initiation dates and frequency/location/duration in the IEP. The content is also available in Spanish.



PROGRESS Center Website. The PROGRESS website includes additional information about developing high-quality IEPs and additional tip sheets in this series.



1400 Crystal Drive, 10th Floor | Arlington, VA 22202
202-403-5000 | www.air.org

www.promotingprogress.org



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