

CHARTING THE COURSE: DRAFTING HIGH-QUALITY IEPs THAT DRIVE RESULTS FOR STUDENTS

A student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) outlines the specialized instruction, support, and services necessary to provide a child with a disability access to grade-level content in the least restrictive environment and enable them to make progress on annual goals. The quality of these documents, and the information included in them, can shape a student's experience and how the staff responsible for supporting them meet their needs.

Course Description

This professional learning series provides a deeper understanding of the relationship between each component of the IEP and provides guidance for crafting quality IEPs that accurately and comprehensively reflect the strengths and needs of a student. Participants will engage in an analysis of exemplar documents and discuss implications for drafting and implementing quality IEPs. Participants will be introduced to a quality IEP rubric to support them in strengthening their practice in developing quality documents.

Learning Outcomes

Throughout the course, participants will:

- Understand the importance of crafting high-quality IEPs as a roadmap for educating students with disabilities;
- Hone their ability to accurately describe students' present levels of performance;
- Learn how to craft clear annual goals aligned to grade-level standards;
- Practice identifying services, accommodations, and supports that help students make progress in school; and
- Begin to create a plan for sharing IEP content with relevant members of the Team and greater school community.

Feedback from ABC Course Participants

"I loved it and there is nothing I would change for the course!"

*- Early Childhood General Education
Teacher*

"I really looked forward to it every evening. It went by super fast because of the great robust discussions we were having because everyone wanted to participate."

- Special Education Coach

"[ABC] gave everyone time to speak and have a voice. Once we began talking, the time went by quickly."

- General Education Teacher

Course Components

- The Importance of a High-Quality IEP
- Participants in the IEP Creation Process
- Understanding Present Levels of Performance
- Crafting SMARTIE Goals that Work for Students
- Identifying Services and Supports to Provide Access to Curriculum and Remove Barriers
- Preparing for the IEP Team Meeting
- Planning for Implementation of the IEP