



IEP CLARITY CO.

CLARITY FOR PARENTS. CONFIDENCE FOR MEETINGS.

IDEA, FAPE, ATTENDANCE & SUSPENSION POLICIES *in California*



Understanding your child's rights and how schools must support them is key to ensuring they receive the education they are entitled to.



IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The Federal Law

IDEA is a federal law that ensures children with disabilities have the right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) designed to meet their unique needs.

IDEA GUARANTEES:

- ✓ A free appropriate public education (FAPE)
- ✓ Special education and related services
- ✓ An Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- ✓ Education in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- ✓ Procedural safeguards and due process rights
- ✓ Parent participation in decisions



IDEA applies to all public schools in California and ensures children with disabilities receive the support they need to learn and grow.



FAPE: Free Appropriate Public Education

Your Child's Right

FAPE means your child has the right to an education at public expense that is:

- ✓ **Free:** At no cost to you
- ✓ **Appropriate:** Meets your child's unique needs
- ✓ **Public:** Provided by the public school system

FAPE IN CALIFORNIA MEANS:

- An IEP that includes goals, services, and supports tailored to your child
- Services that allow your child to make meaningful progress in school
- Placement in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) with peers without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate



If a service is on your child's IEP, the school must provide it. FAPE is about access, quality, and progress.



ATTENDANCE POLICIES in California

What You Need to Know

Students with disabilities have the same attendance expectations as their peers, with important protections.

KEY POINTS:

- ✓ **Same Standards:** Your child must follow the same attendance laws as other students.
- ✓ **IEP Considerations:** If absences are related to your child's disability, the school should consider this and work with you.
- ✓ **Support, Not Punishment:** Schools should address underlying issues (health, anxiety, transportation, etc.) and provide supports.
- ✓ **Truancy & Chronic Absenteeism:** Schools must collaborate with families and consider IEP supports before referring to truancy authorities.



Communication is key—keep the school informed and request supports if attendance is a challenge.



SUSPENSION POLICIES in California

Important Protections

Students with disabilities have additional rights and protections when it comes to discipline.

KEY POINTS:

- ✓ **Stay Put (Disciplinary Removals):** If your child is removed from their current placement for more than 10 consecutive school days, the school must hold an IEP meeting to determine placement.
- ✓ **Manifestation Determination Review (MDR):** For removals that total more than 10 school days in a school year, the IEP team must decide if the behavior was caused by or related to the disability.
- ✓ **No Change for More Than 45 Days:** If the behavior was related to the disability, the school cannot change your child's placement for more than 45 school days.
- ✓ **Services Must Continue:** Your child must continue to receive educational services to progress in the general curriculum, even if removed.



Discipline should be used to teach and support—not just remove. You have the right to be part of the process.



Remember



You are your child's best advocate.



Ask questions and get things in writing.



Document conversations and keep records.



Know your rights. You are not alone.

