

# Overview

Special Education Advocates League, SEAL

[www.sealk12.org](http://www.sealk12.org)

## Special Education Acronyms

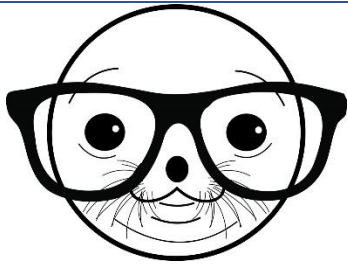
BIP	Behavior Intervention Plan
ESY	Extended School Year
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education
FBA	Functional Behavior Assessment
IEE	Independent Education Evaluation
IEP	Individualized Education Program
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
PWN	Prior Written Notice
SDI	Specially Designed Instruction

## Did You Know?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 is a federal law that requires school districts to serve the educational needs of eligible students with disabilities.

## Did You Know?!

Section 504 is a civil rights law that protects students with disabilities against discrimination. Section 504 is to ensure a child with a disability has equal access to an education.



# Terminology

**Accommodations and Modifications are different.** An **accommodation** can help the student learn the same material and meet the same expectations as their peers. They do not reduce the learning expectations. They provide a student access. A **modification** is when the student is far behind their peers and they need changes (modifications) to the curriculum. The student isn't expected to learn the same material as their peers. They change, lower, or reduce the learning expectations.

**Continuum of Placement** is found in Section 300.115 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It is the procedures to ensure a student is educated, to the maximum extent appropriate, with children who do not have a disability. It is to "ensure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities for Special Education Services and Related Services." This goes hand in hand with the requirement that a child with a disability must be placed in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

**Extracurricular Activities and Nonacademic Activities** refer to school activities that fall outside of the area of the General Curriculum. They tend to be more social than academic and they typically involve other children of the same age. They may be organized and lead by teachers or other school personnel. Examples include school sports, school clubs, recess, assemblies, school newspapers, after-school programs.

**Inclusion** is not a term used in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The IDEA **does** require though that school districts educate students with disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). **Inclusion in Education** refers to a model wherein students with disabilities spend most or all of their time with students without disabilities in the general education classroom.

The **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)** means that a student who has a disability should have the same opportunity to be educated with students without disabilities, to the greatest extent appropriate, providing supplementary aids and services. Inclusive Education is the basis for the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

The **Prior Written Notice (PWN)** can be a confusing term. The school district **must** send the parent a Prior Written Notice (PWN) after a decision has been made but **before** it is implemented. The details of a Prior Written Notice (PWN) can be found under Washington Administrative Code (WAC), WAC 392-172A-05010. **Prior notice and contents**

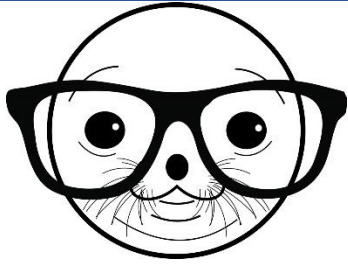
A **Related Service** is to assist a student with a disability to benefit from special education. A related service helps a student reach their IEP Goals. It can be in many forms. i.e. counseling services, audiology, transportation, assistive technology, occupational therapy, school health services, etc. Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 392-172A-01155 (exclusions are listed)

**Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)** is adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction. It is specific to a student who qualifies for special education services to help the student master Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals and ensure access to and progress in the general curriculum.

"The term "**Supplementary Aids and Services**" means aids, services, and other supports that are provided in general education classes or other education-related settings to enable students eligible for special education to be educated with nondisabled students to the maximum extent appropriate in accordance with the least restrictive environment requirements in WAC 392-172A-02050 through 392-172A-02065" Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 392-172A-01185

### **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a way of thinking about teaching and learning that helps give all students an equal opportunity to succeed. It is finding a variety of teaching methods to remove any barriers to learning. It is about flexibility.



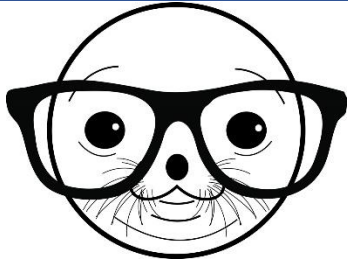
## ASK for expectations

The outpouring of calls, emails, etc., received from families struggling with remote learning, has been profound.

Families with special education students have been expected to put on many additional hats.

A few things that have not changed:

- 👁️ Parents should know schools must still provide their students with Special Education Services and Related Services.
- 👁️ School closures have not resulted in any waived requirements or obligations.
- 👁️ School districts are still supposed to be providing what the student needs, and, what the family needs.
- 👁️ Families aren't the only ones struggling through remote learning. Educators are struggling as well.

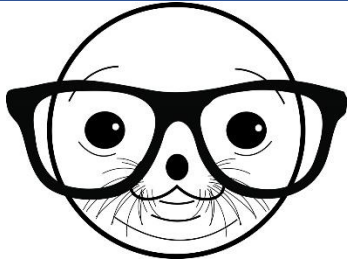


## ASK the Case Manager

A student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), has a Case Manager. The Case Manager can have multiple roles and responsibilities with the student's services, progress, and program.

A few important points to know:

- 👁️ A Case Manager is the point of contact for the student's IEP.
- 👁️ The Case Manager writes the student's IEP and schedules the IEP meetings.
- 👁️ The Case Manager can be your child's special education teacher who delivers the IEP's services.
- 👁️ The Case Manager is the person responsible for monitoring the student's IEP goals, collecting and gathering data. The data can come from many places.
- 👁️ The Case Manager is an advocate for the student.



## ASK for a visual schedule

Parents may ask for the school to provide them with a detailed schedule. Sometimes that might involve several schedules if days 'look' different.

Most school district teams want to help the parents however they need to know the 'what'.

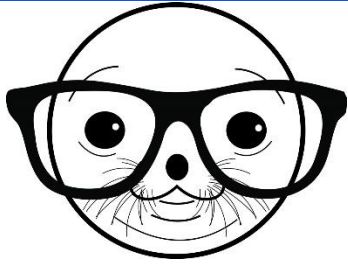
If a schedule would help, send an email and say:

In order for my student to have access to Remote Learning, we need:

- A 1 page schedule, with Virtual links for **Monday's**
- A 1 page schedule, with Virtual links for **Half Days**
- A 1 page schedule, with Virtual links for **Silver Days**
- Include any related services and the Virtual links

Time	Period	
7:30 to 8:45		Independent Learning
8:50 to 10:10	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	S ILC Reading (link)
10:10 to 10:40		Break and a Snack
10:40 to 12:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	S ILC Math (link)
12:00 to 12:30		Lunch
12:30 to 1:50	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	Conditioning (link)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30 8:45	Independent Learning	Independent Learning	Independent Learning	Independent Learning	Independent Learning
8:50 10:10	Period 1 <b>Zoom A</b>	Period 2 <b>Zoom B</b>		Period 1 <b>Zoom A</b>	Period 2 <b>Zoom B</b>
10:10 10:40	Break Snack	Break Snack	Break Snack	Break Snack	Break Snack
10:40 12:00	Independent Learning	Period 3 <b>Zoom C</b>	Independent Learning	Independent Learning	Period 3 <b>Zoom C</b>
12:00 12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 1:50	Period 5 <b>Zoom D</b>	Independent Learning	Independent Learning	Period 5 <b>Zoom D</b>	Independent Learning



# Parent 'Tidbit' Information

## **Did You Know?!**

The Prior Written Notice (PWN) is one of the most important documents to ensure Parent Participation in the Special Education process.

## **Did You Know?!**

The Evaluation/Eligibility Meeting is a different meeting than the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meeting with 'different' mandatory team members who must be present.

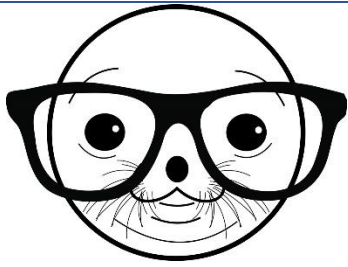
## **Did You Know?!**

A parent may request the school district send, as an email attachment, the draft evaluation reports prior to the Evaluation/Eligibility Meeting. This will give the parent the opportunity to read the information and prepare questions, and to be able to fully participate in the meeting.

## **Did You Know?!**

A parent may request the school district send, as an email attachment, a draft Individualized Education Program (IEP) prior to the meeting. This will give the parent an opportunity to think about their input to the Individualized Education Program (IEP).





## In-Person Services

### Did You Know?!

Most school districts are starting to contact families about bringing Special Education Students into the school buildings.

### Did You Know?!

It is the individual school districts deciding how often, and what days and times.

### Did You Know?!

Some school districts are changing, or trying to change, the Special Education and Related Service Minutes on the student's IEP to 'match' the minutes they are proposing.

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Is a parent able to ask for In-Person Services?	Yes
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Is a parent required to agree to the day and time of In-Person Services?	No. The parent should talk with the IEP team about why the proposed dates and times will not work.
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What happens if the school district tries, or does, change the Service Minutes on the IEP?	The Service Minutes on an IEP can only be changed during an IEP meeting. Hopefully it was a team decision.
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Changing the Service Minutes on an IEP can result in a 'placement change'.

How will the parent know if the school district changed any of the Service Minutes?

The school district is required to send the parent a Prior Written Notice (PWN) **before** any decision is implemented. Check the PWN "initiated on" date.

What happens if the school district plans on changing the Service Minutes and the parent doesn't agree?

The parent may file a Special Education Due Process Hearing Request.

Why would a parent want to file a Special Education Due Process Hearing Request?

A student's placement during the proceedings is the educational program and placement in effect at the time the due process hearing request was filed, unless the school district and parent agree otherwise.

This is often referred to as a "Stay Put"

Please see: WAC 392-172A-05125

Please see: 20 USC 1415 (j)

What are some possible words a parent can use when requesting In-Person Services?

My student is unable to access instruction and services through remote learning.

My student is unable to learn by remote instruction or asynchronous and synchronous learning activities.

My student's needs are significant and complex and requires in-person instruction and services.

Can In-Person Services take place somewhere other than a school building?

Yes, they can.

What are some examples of other locations?

 A student's home

 An outside organizations office

Do Special Education & Related Services have to be provided by a school district employee?

No, a school district can contract with an outside organization to provide services.