

ATTORNEY TIP SHEET #4

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS RECEIVING A FAPE?

I. STEP ONE: UNDERSTAND THE FAPE STANDARD

A free appropriate public education (FAPE) means an education that:

is **individualized** to your child, is designed to meet your child's **unique needs**, provides access to the **general curriculum**, meets the **grade-level standards** established by Ohio, and provides **educational benefit** to your child.

Tip: FAPE does not mean your child is entitled to the best possible education or an education that maximizes your child's potential.

Your child is entitled to an education that is **reasonably calculated to provide educational benefit in relationship to the abilities of your child**.

II. STEP TWO: UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILD'S IEP

Your school is required to provide what is on the IEP. It's important to make sure that the **IEP is clearly written** so that you understand what is being provided.

Tip: **Have someone review your child's IEP**. An educator, special education advocate, or educational or medical professional can review your child's IEP and provide you with feedback about its clarity. They may be able to provide you with suggestions for improvement of the IEP.

III. STEP THREE: REVIEW DATA ABOUT PROGRESS

Your school should collect information and data about your child's progress on the IEP goals and related services. Check the IEP to make sure it documents data collection. Ask the school to provide you with progress reports and other data. **Review the data to determine your child's progress**.

Tip: If your school does not have data to show you, request an IEP meeting to discuss progress. **Follow-up on the lack of data** and make sure the IEP clearly documents what kind of data will be collected and the responsible person.

IV. STEP FOUR: REQUEST AN IEP MEETING TO ADDRESS LACK OF PROGRESS

If there are no data to review, or if the data show a lack of progress, request an IEP meeting. At the meeting, you can address the lack of data, or **modify the IEP to address any lack of progress**. The IEP can be modified to include additional services, a change in instruction method, or the addition of staff depending on the needs of your child.