

Discussion Questions to Get Ready for My Yearly IEP Meeting

MA DESE Recommended Form for Students Aged 13 - 22

Date(s) of questionnaire completion:

Date of upcoming IEP Meeting:

Student Information
Student Name:
Grade Level:
Student ID#:

School staff: MA DESE recommends (but does not require) that you use this form at least annually as one tool to prepare the student for their IEP meeting and to ensure discussion of what is important to the student. Please work with the student to determine which questions seem appropriate; not every question must be answered. As much as possible, support the student to respond in their own words.

	Self-Determination: Strengths, Challenges, and Helpful Strategies
Strengths and Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you like to do in school? [Examples: favorite subjects, electives such as gym class, art, music, clubs] What do you like to do when you are not in school? [Examples: reading, singing, painting, sports, playing an instrument, playing video games, going for walks] What else would you like to do or learn in school or out of school? [Examples: driving, cooking, banking, theater, dance class, video game design class] What have you accomplished that you are proud of in the last year? [Examples: something you did, something you made, someone new you met, a new activity you tried] What used to be hard for you that you have gotten better at in the last year? [Examples: writing, speaking up, asking for help, staying calm]
Challenges and Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is hard for you to do at school? [Examples: math, participating in class, asking for help, making friends] What is hard for you about getting a job or doing your job? [Examples: interviewing, being on time, asking for help, talking to a supervisor, completing my work, staying calm] What is hard for you to do at home? [Examples: chores such as laundry, making the bed, cooking, finding things to do] What is hard for you to do in the community? [Examples: taking the bus, talking to unfamiliar adults or peers, having friends to do things with, scheduling appointments] What challenges or concerns do you want to talk with your IEP Team about?
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What helps you learn when you are at school? [Examples: extra time, graphic organizer, step-by-step instructions, an aide] What helps you do your job when you're at work? [Examples: quiet place, job coach, written directions] What helps you complete tasks and activities at home? [Examples: timer, checklist, schedule, delivery service, support person] What helps you to do activities in your community? [Examples: phone apps, transportation, support from a therapist/mentor]

Student Vision/Postsecondary Goals	
Postsecondary Education/Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of education/training do you want to have after high school? [Examples: two- or four-year college, technical school, adult/continuing education, HiSET/GED, job training] • What would you like to study or learn? • Are there specific programs you know that you would like to attend? • Who will you turn to when you need help/care/support? [Examples: college accessibility/disability/support services, writing center, tutor, instructor, teaching assistant, coach, mentor, family]
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kinds of jobs/careers are you interested in? [Examples: 2 years from now, 5 years from now, 10 years from now] • When do you want to work? [Examples: number of hours per day/week, which days and times] • How much money will you want or need to make? • Who will you turn to when you need help/care/support? [Examples: job coach, adult service provider, supervisor, mentor, family]
Independent Living, including Community Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do you hope to live when you are older? [Examples: on your own, with your family, with friends or roommates] • What skills do you hope to have on your own and with support? [Examples: laundry, cleaning, shopping, meal planning, cooking, fitness, health/self-care, managing money, paying bills] • What supports would be helpful to you in your home? [Examples: personal care attendant (PCA), assistive technology, medical equipment] • What would you like to do for fun when you are done with school? [Examples: hang out with family/friends, play sports, art/music, gaming, travel] • How would you like to get around? [Examples: walk, bike, bus, subway, rideshare, drive a car] • What kind of relationships do you hope to have? [Examples: friends, family, partner] • What other ways would you like to participate in your community? [Examples: voting, volunteering, religious activities, shopping, banking] • Who will you turn to when you need help/care/support? [Examples: friends, family, therapist, doctor, nurse, aide, mentor, independent living centers, adult service provider]

Planning For My Role in My IEP Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on your answers above, how would you like to participate in the IEP meeting? [Examples: write an outline, read a statement, make a PowerPoint, lead your IEP meeting, etc.] • Would you like any help to prepare for the meeting? What would be helpful to you to prepare for it?