

Navigating IEPs

Emilee Baker
PhD Student Inclusive Education
MS Education
BA Anthropology

Agenda

- Introductions
- Guiding questions
- IDEA and Parental Rights
- IEP Basics
- Understanding Disability
- Collaborate as a team
- Advocacy
- Questions



Emilee Baker (she/ her)

Who am I professionally?

- Educational qualitative researcher
 - Research interests:
 - inclusive education, intersectionality between race and disability, decentering whiteness in research and higher education, and sustainable education including humans' relationships to the natural world
 - PhD in Inclusive Education
 - Masters in Exceptional Education
 - Former Special Education teacher in a large urban Midwestern School district
- Disability focus: Autism/ EBD



Who am I recreationally?

- Avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast
- Nature photographer
- Strong *person* competitor
- Loves dogs



Guiding Questions

- How can you as a parent better understand the IEP process, to not only understand *the basics* but also advocate for your student to have access to the most equitable educational opportunities?
- What are your rights as a parent(s) as regulated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)?
- What are strategies you can employ to help facilitate a cooperative and productive IEP meetings for all team members, including your student?

IDEA

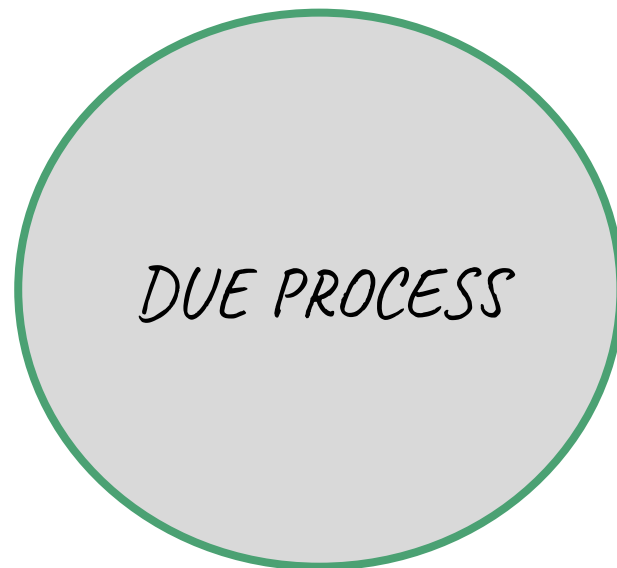
INDIVIDUALS WITH
DISABILITIES
EDUCATION ACT

The Context



The Basics

- Free and appropriate public education (FAPE)
 - Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Appropriate evaluation
- Zero-reject
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Parent and student participation in decision making
- Procedural safeguards



Individualized Education Plan

- Student strengths
& areas of need
- Objective goals
- Related Services
- Accommodations
& Modifications
- Placement
- Transition



IEP

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN



Parental Rights

- Right to participate
- Right to written notice
- Right to consent
- Right to access educational records
- Right to request a hearing
- Right to keep child in current placement
- Right to mediation
- Right to info on disciplinary action

Models of Disability

**The Medical
Model of
Disability**

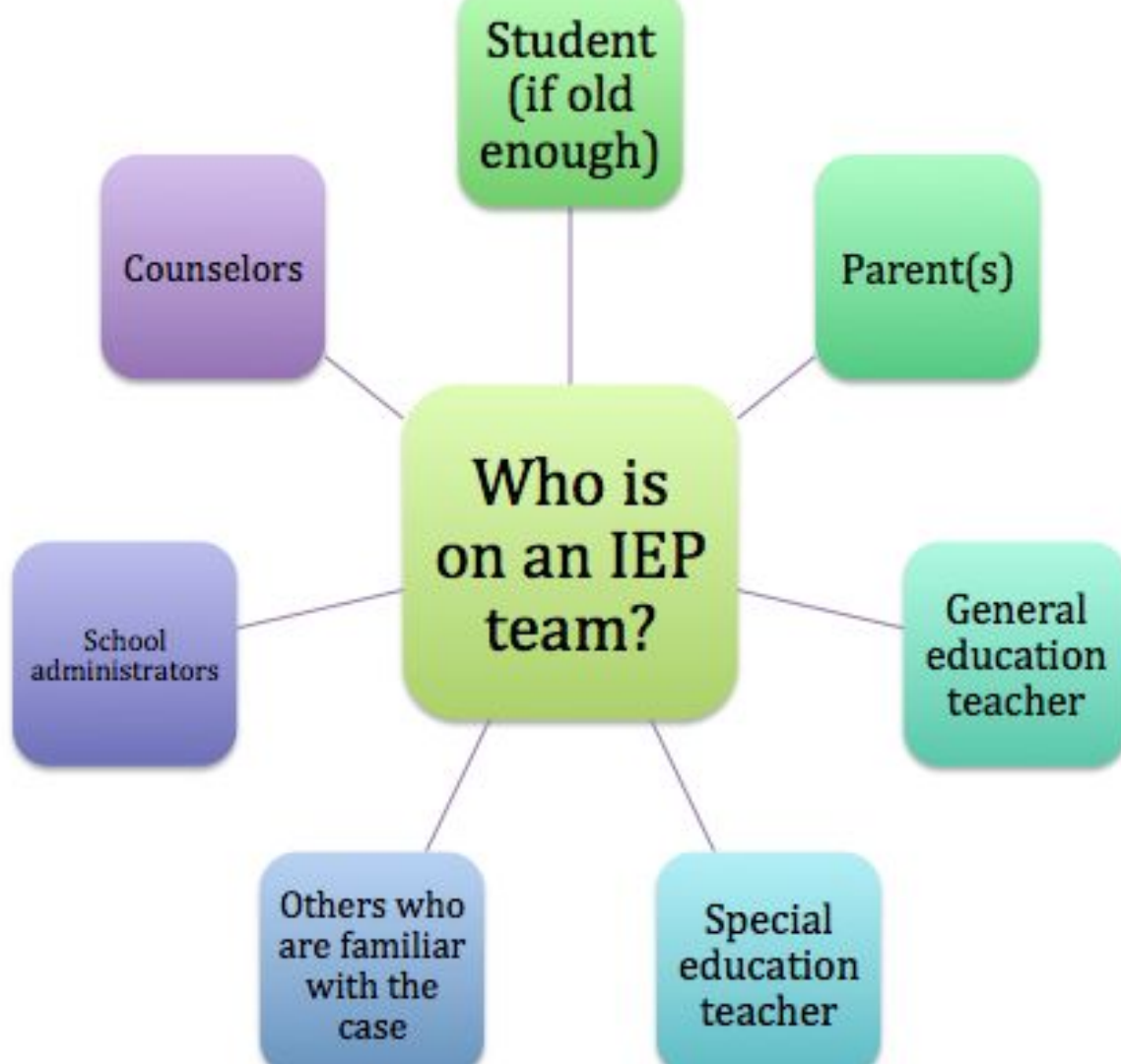
**The Social
Model of
Disability**

Disability labels

- Autism
- Deaf Blindness
- Deafness
- Developmental Delay*
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment (OHI)
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment Including Blindness



Collaboration



Advocacy

Unique
Needs

Rights

Resources

Parental Advocate!

Summary

- ★ The IEP basics and the legal processes and regulations
- ★ Your parental rights
- ★ Collaboration and advocacy

Do you have questions?



References

Dalien, S. (2020, October 6). *9 parental rights in the IEP process: Special education resource*. Special Ed Resource. Retrieved October 18, 2021, from <https://specialedresource.com/9-parental-rights-iep-process/>.

Disability law center of Alaska. dlcak.org. (n.d.). Retrieved October 18, 2021, from <https://www.dlcak.org/>.

Tefera & Kramarczuk Voulgarides (2016) Is Educational Policy Alleviating or Perpetuating the Racialization of Disabilities?