

Commonly asked Questions General Education Teachers Ask About IEP Meetings

1. *Do I have to attend IEP meetings?*

Yes, federal law (IDEA) required the participation of a general education teacher in all IEP meetings.

2. *What if I can't come to an IEP meeting or an emergency arises?*

The law allows for your nonattendance at the meeting if the parent in advance of the meeting signs an "Agreements Form". This form should not be used when a teacher doesn't show up unexpectedly.

3. *Do I have to stay the entire time of the IEP meeting?*

It is recommended that you stay for the entire meeting. The law states that the general education teacher must be a member of the IEP team and it's difficult to do that if you aren't there.

4. *What will happen if I don't show up for an IEP meeting and there isn't a written agreement with the parent that I'm excused?*

The IEP team will not be allowed to have an IEP meeting and it will need to be rescheduled to allow for your participation. This may cause an inconvenience to the parent and cause your school to be out of compliance.

5. *What happens if parents don't show up for a scheduled IEP meeting?*

If the parents have been given sufficient notice of an IEP meeting and they don't show up, the IEP team may have the meeting without the parent.

6. *Must I attend IEP meetings outside of my contracted workday?*

No, you are not required to come to meetings outside of your contracted work hours. Every effort should be made to schedule meetings that are convenient for both the parents and the teachers.

7. *May I sign an attendance sheet or eligibility form after the IEP meeting if I wasn't present but the case manager updates me on what happened?*

No. IEPs are legal documents with requirements regarding participation. Never sign a special education document indicating you were present and participated if that is not the case.