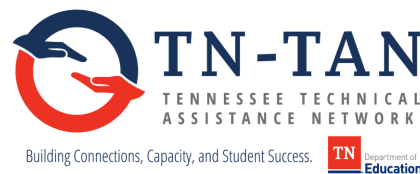




FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
IN SPECIAL EDUCATION



STUDENT-LED INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS (IEP)

Things to know:

- Students can attend their IEP meetings as early as kindergarten.
- Students **MUST** be invited to their IEP meetings at the age of 14.
- Students may attend all or part of the meeting.
- Length of the IEP meeting does not differ between student-led IEPs and teacher directed meetings.
- Active involvement is crucial for transitioning into adulthood.

Immediate Benefit for Students:

- Students feel more in control of their educational experiences.
- Students have an opportunity to convey their skills and limitations to the IEP team.
- Students can provide valuable input on their strengths and needs to inform IEP goals, accommodations, supports, services, etc.
- Students develop increased accountability for their educational progress.
- Students develop self-awareness and self-advocacy skills.

Short and Long-term Benefits of Student-led IEPs:

- A student's presence personalizes the IEP process for all team members.
- Student-led IEP meetings foster participation, engagement, and communication.
- Students learn self-determination and self-advocacy skills.
- Students who lead their own IEP meetings experience higher rates of graduation, lower rates of behaviors, and increased likelihood of being employed and/or enrolled in higher education than students who do not participate in their IEPs.