

Terminology

DISABILITIES

Intellectual Disability (ID) is a group of conditions characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning (i.e. reasoning, learning, problem solving) and in adaptive behavior (i.e. social and practical skills). This disability begins before the age of 22.

Developmental Disability (DD) is an umbrella term that includes intellectual disability as well as other disabilities that are apparent during childhood until the age of 22. DDs are likely to be lifelong and can be physical, cognitive, or both. Some examples of DDs include autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, fragile X syndrome, and spina bifida.

SERVICES AND PLANS

Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) is a proactive plan developed to address behaviors that are interfering in the learning of a student or others. It includes a description of the problem behavior, an explanation of why the behavior is occurring, and positive intervention strategies. It can be a stand-alone document or can be attached to an existing education or service plan.

Child Development Services (CDS) is a division of the Maine Department of Education that provides early intervention and special education services for children from birth through age 5. Regional CDS sites provide case management services and conduct screenings and evaluations to identify children who are eligible for services.

Individual Education Program (IEP) is a document for a public school child, age 3-20, who needs special education.

Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a written plan for providing early intervention services for a child and their family. An IFSP is legally required for all children birth through age 2 who receive services through the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).



Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) is a written plan designed to meet a child's daily living, social, and behavioral needs. Needs must qualify as medically necessary in order to be approved.

Special Education is defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability, including— (i) instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, and in other settings; and (ii) instruction in physical education.

Transition Services are services that schools are required to provide under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for students with disabilities to help them prepare for life after high school. Services must begin no later than 9th grade or at age 16. These services are described in the IEP.