

July 30, 2025

## **New Requirements for Annual IEP Meetings**

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On July 22, 2025, Governor Murphy signed a new law which requires school districts to provide parents additional information at least two-business days prior to an annual review IEP meeting. Specifically, the new law mandates that the district provide the parents a written statement of items to be discussed at the meeting, including:

- the student's current level of academic and functional performance;
- a list of the names of any required IEP team members who are seeking excusal from participation in the IEP meeting;
- input from any team member seeking excusal regarding the programs and services they are responsible for; and
- an invitation for the parents to provide input and feedback regarding the programs and services proposed in the student's IEP.

Notably, this information must be provided to the parents via regular mail, and by email if the school has the parent's email address on file.

The new law does not change the current requirements for IEP meeting notices. Meeting notices must still identify, typically by title, any required IEP Team members who the District would like to excuse from the meeting and request the parent's consent to excuse those individuals. The new law, however, requires a second document to be provided to parents, at least two-business days prior to the meeting, which specifies – by name – any required IEP team member that is seeking excusal from the meeting and encloses a written summary of the staff member's input for the meeting.

The new law also requires the NJDOE to establish an IEP Improvement Working Group, the "purpose of which is to provide recommendations to the department [of education] regarding methods to improve the development and implementation of IEPs and to ensure parental

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involvement in the process”. While this provision does not require school districts to take any action, school districts may wish to consider notifying the DOE of relevant staff members who are willing to be appointed to that committee.

The new law took effect immediately, with further clarification that the new two-business days written statement requirements “shall first apply to the first school year following the date of enactment”. As it is well established in New Jersey that a school year begins on July 1, the notice requirements provision becomes effective for the 2026-2027 school year.

For more information on this new legislation or related issues, please contact the attorneys at SPSK.

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