

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION ACCOUNT (IEA) PROGRAM



The Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program provides the opportunity for parents of eligible students with disabilities to choose the education opportunities that best meet their child's own unique needs through access to public education funds. The student application window will open in **summer 2016**, and the first IEAs will be awarded in **January 2017**.

In order to enroll in the IEA Program, parents must waive all their child's IDEA rights and their child will no longer have an IEP or receive any services through the public school system.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

An "eligible student" must be a Tennessee resident who meets **all** of the following criteria:

- 1) has an active individualized education program (IEP) through a public school district **in effect** at the time of request for participation in the program; **and**
- 2) meets **at least one** of the following requirements:
 - was previously enrolled in a Tennessee public school during the two semesters (or one full school year) immediately preceding the semester in which the student receives an IEA,
 - is entering kindergarten,
 - moved to Tennessee within six months prior to the date the student receives an IEA, or
 - received an IEA in the previous year; **and**
- 3) has one of the following disabilities identified in their IEP:
 - ◇ autism,
 - ◇ deaf-blindness,
 - ◇ hearing impairment,
 - ◇ intellectual disability
 - ◇ orthopedic impairments,
 - ◇ traumatic brain injury, and/or
 - ◇ visual impairments.

FUNDING AND EXPENSES

The amount of funds awarded annually to each student's IEA is equal to the average per student state and local funding amount through the state funding formula, for the district where the student resides minus a four percent state administrative fee. **The statewide average annual IEA award is approximately \$6,300.**

The funds can be used for education-related expenses, including but not limited to: private school tuition at participation schools, educational therapy, technological devices, and tutoring services. For a complete list of the approved expenses, see the IEA Parent Handbook posted on the IEA webpage.

[VISIT THE IEA WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

tn.gov/education/section/IEA



FROM THE WEBSITE YOU CAN:

- ◆ **SIGN UP TO RECEIVE IEA UPDATES**
- ◆ **SIGN UP TO ATTEND AN IEA INFORMATION SESSION**
- ◆ **READ THE TOP 5 THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE APPLY TO THE IEA PROGRAM**

If you have any questions, please contact the IEA Team at IEA.Questions@tn.gov or (615) 253-3781