

**2022-23
IEA
Program
Random
Reminders
for
Account
Holders
and
LEAs**

Applications submitted for participation in the IEA Program are considered received by the department on the date the application window for the IEA program closes.

Qualifying disabilities for eligible students include the following: autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment. Specific learning disabilities was recently added to the statute and will be available for the 2023-24 contract year applications.

The IEA team can be contacted at (615) 253-3781 or at IEA.Questions@tn.gov. These are the best ways to contact program representatives. When calling the phone line, please leave a voicemail message. The system will send a team member a message, and someone will return your call. This ensures that if someone is on vacation or out of the office, another team member always receives your message.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) should send a message to IEA.Questions@tn.gov if their IEA liaison is not correct on this [list](#).

While a student participating in the IEA Program does not retain the right to receive special education and related services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP), the participating student does retain the right to continue special education eligibility. Enrollment in the IEA Program does not result in automatic non-eligibility determinations. Eligibility decisions are made solely by the student's IEP team.

Once a student has been determined eligible for the IEA Program, prior to being coded as enrolled in the IEA Program, the parent/guardian and the LEA must convene an IEP team meeting to consider the need for an Individualized Service Plan (ISP).

If a participating student had previously been found non-eligible by the LEA due only to enrollment in the IEA program, the parent/legal guardian may request, in writing, an initial assessment to determine if the child is a student with an educational disability. If the student is found eligible by the IEP team, an ISP should be developed if the team determines that such services are appropriate and required.

Account holders should print/save the [Key Dates](#) document to be prepared for deadlines during the contract year.

Account holders must submit annual verification that students in grades 3–8 have completed one of the approved assessments or must submit exemption verification (e.g., copy of the Student's IEP page indicating participation in the Tennessee Alternate Assessment).

Note: Grade levels for students participating in the IEA Program are in accordance with department records, not individual instructional levels or private school placements. As each student in the IEA Program is required to be registered with the LEA in which they reside, the student's grade level will be listed in accordance with such records.

Account Holders are not required to spend the entire IEA sum each year; however, at least fifty percent (50%) of the amount of annual funding disbursed into the IEA account must be spent on approved expenses by the deadline for submission of the last expense report of each contract year.

Please review Chapter Five of the [2022-23 IEA Account Holder Handbook](#) for information on each approvable expense along with detailed instructions for acquiring items that require department approval prior to purchase.

Please refer to Chapter Five of the [2022-23 IEA Account Holder Handbook](#) for information about the ABLE TN savings accounts and Coverdell Education Savings accounts. (An example of the ABLE TN statement needed for expense reporting is also included in Chapter Seven.)

Furniture, consumables, medical-related items and services, some experiences, certain services, add-on technology, some equipment, animals/supplies, personal transportation, and expenses outside the contract period are all among the list of disallowed IEA expenses.

The name of the educational therapy and of the therapist on the receipt submitted with the IEA expense report must match what is listed on the pre-approval notice from the department.

The expense report must include all expenses paid during the expense reporting period. If an expense is not reported on the expense report, it will be considered a misuse of funds.

Any expenditures of IEA funds after the date of withdrawal from the IEA Program is a misuse of funds. The department may refer cases of substantial misuse of monies to the Tennessee attorney general's office or the state comptroller's office for investigation and/or recoupment of outstanding funds.

An account holder may appeal any department decision regarding determination of eligibility, determination of misspent IEA funds, *and/or* removal of the student from the IEA Program. Information on how to file an appeal can be found [here](#).