

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION ACCOUNT (IEA) PROGRAM



The IEA Program is a school choice program for students with disabilities. It provides the opportunity for parents of eligible students in grades K–12 to choose the educational opportunities that best meet their child’s own unique needs through access to public education funds.

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. Once enrolled in the IEA Program, students can either attend a private school or an independent home school.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

An “eligible student” is a Tennessee resident who meets **all** of the following criteria:

- 1) meets **at least one** of the following requirements:
 - was previously enrolled in a Tennessee public school during the one full school year immediately preceding the school year in which the student receives an IEA,
 - is entering kindergarten for the first time, or
 - has not previously attended a school in Tennessee during the one full school year immediately preceding the school year in which the student receives an IEA, and moved to Tennessee less than one year prior to the date of enrollment in the IEA Program ; **and**
- 2) has an **active individualized education program (IEP)** through a Tennessee public school district in effect at the time of request for participation in the program; **and**
- 3) has one of the following disabilities in their IEP as the **primary or secondary disability**:
 - ◇ autism,
 - ◇ deaf-blindness,
 - ◇ developmental delay
 - ◇ hearing impairment,
 - ◇ intellectual disability
 - ◇ multiple disabilities
 - ◇ orthopedic impairments,
 - ◇ traumatic brain injury, or
 - ◇ visual impairments.

FUNDING AND EXPENSES

The amount of funds awarded annually to each student's IEA is based on the state funding formula and the school district where the student resides. **The statewide average annual IEA award is approximately \$6,600.**

The funds can be used to pay for certain types of education-related expenses. For a complete list of the approved expenses, see the *IEA Parent Handbook* posted on the IEA webpage.

[Visit the IEA webpage for more information](#)

tn.gov/education/IEA



From the IEA webpage you can:

- **Sign up to receive *IEA Updates***
- **Sign Up to Attend an IEA Parent 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