
Individualized Education Account Course Code

The Background:

On May 18, 2015, Governor Haslam signed into law the Individualized Education Act (Public Chapter 431), which creates individualized education accounts (IEAs) for eligible special needs students to use for educational purposes. The program provides options for parents of certain special needs students to choose the educational opportunities that best meet the individual needs of their child by giving them direct access to state and local public education funds associated with their child. The program will go into effect in the 2016-17 school year.

The law requires that, for the purpose of funding calculations, each eligible student who participates in the IEA program shall be counted in the enrollment figures for the LEA in which the student resides and is zoned to attend. To meet this statutory requirement, the Tennessee Department of Education has created a new permanent course code for the IEA program. The department will release a new Correlations of Course and Endorsement Code document in November 2015 to provide course information for districts who have begun to plan course schedules for the 2016-17 school year.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.