



Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program

State Board of Education Workshop
Jan. 26, 2017



Introduction

Introduction to the IEA Program

- The Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program **was adopted by the state legislature in 2015.**
- The IEA Program creates **accounts** (IEAs) for **eligible students** with disabilities to use **public funds** for educational purposes.
- The program provides **options** for parents to **choose** the educational opportunities that best meet their child's own unique needs.
- The IEA Program is the **first program of its kind to be implemented in Tennessee.**

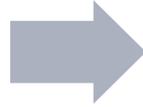


Program Development

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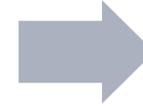
Tennessee General Assembly

- Created and passed the state law that created the IEA Program



Tennessee State Board of Education

- Approved rules for the IEA Program



Tennessee Department of Education

- Administers the IEA Program



Implementation Challenges and Successes

Challenges

- Developing strong plans for **engagement and communication** with parents, school districts, advocacy groups and other external stakeholders.
- Developing and building **online systems** for:
 - parent/ student enrollment and participation in the program,
 - nonpublic school enrollment and participation in the program,
 - IEA account funding distribution, and
 - fraud reporting.
- Creating IEA **Rules**
- How to encourage more **private schools** to participate.

Successes

- The TDOE communicated this program with **thousands** of eligible students/ parents across the state.
- Able to **coordinate and solicit feedback** from numerous stakeholders, advocacy groups, and other government agencies and departments.
- We were able to launch a completely new statewide program in **18 months**.
- For the first time, **students that will be able to use IEA accounts** for the educational expenses that best meet their own unique needs.



**Student and School
Application and
Enrollment/ Participation**

Application Launch & Enrollment

- The applications for students and private schools to enroll in/participate in the IEA Program for the Jan. 1 – July 31, 2017 term launched on **Aug. 1, 2016**.
- **47 students** were approved to enroll in the IEA Program for the Jan. 1 – July 31, 2017 IEA term.
 - Students who enrolled in the IEA Program on Jan. 1 reside in 22 districts across the state.
- **Eight schools** were approved to participate in the IEA Program.
 - The schools are located in seven cities across the state.
- **Six appeals** for application denials (student and school) have been filed in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act (UAPA).

Uses of IEA Funds

- Private school tuition and fees
- Educational therapy
- Computer hardware/technological devices
- Curriculum

Student Demographics

- All of the approved students are **in-state**; none of the students approved recently moved to Tennessee (July 1 – Dec. 31, 2016).
- School enrollment:
 - 47% are attending a private school
 - 53% are being independently home schooled.
- Disability on IEP at time of application to the IEA Program:
 - 68% Autism
 - 26% Intellectual Disability

2017-18 Application

- Student **application window for the 2017–18 school year will open in early 2017**
 - Applications are due **April 3, 2017, by 3 p.m. CDT.**
 - **Renewal applications** for existing account holders due **June 1, 2017, by 3 p.m. CDT.**
 - Students will enroll in the program beginning **Aug. 1, 2017.**
- School **application window for the 2017–18 school year will open in early 2017**
 - Applications are due **March 1, 2017, by 3 p.m. CDT.**



Implementation Next Steps

Moving Forward

- The department is **committed to an ongoing review of the IEA Program** to identify what is working well and what areas/systems can be improved.
- The department's **main priority is to ensure that the program is effectively serving the parents and students of Tennessee** in a manner that aligns and fulfills the program's original intent as set by the state legislature.
- The department is **committed to maintaining strong stakeholder engagement and communications** which is key to the successful implementation of the program.
- The department will **release ongoing updates and communications throughout the year**, and will release an annual report on the implementation of the program each year in January.

IEA Webpage, Update, & Email Address

- IEA Webpage: <http://www.tn.gov/education/section/iea>
- Monthly IEA Email Newsletter – IEA Update
 - Subscribe by going to the IEA webpage
 - Archived updates from prior months are posted on the webpage
- Contact the IEA Team:
 - IEA.Questions@tn.gov
 - (615) 253-3781





Department of
Education

Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.

Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork