



Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program Update

State Board of Education Workshop
Jan. 25, 2018

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Presentation Agenda

1. Introduction
2. IEA Program Implementation Updates
3. Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
4. Implementation Challenges and Successes
5. Implementation Next Steps
6. Questions? Feedback?

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Introduction

Introduction to the IEA Program

- The Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program is a school choice program for eligible students with disabilities.
- The program provides options for parents and students to choose the education opportunities that best meet their own unique needs through access to public education funds.
- The IEA Program is the **first program of its kind to be implemented in Tennessee.**
 - The first IEAs were awarded in January 2017.

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IEA Program Implementation Updates

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Student & School Participation

- Jan. 1–July 31, 2017:
 - **36** students enrolled in the IEA Program.
 - **Nine** private schools participated.
- 2017-18 School Year:
 - **88** students enrolled in the IEA Program.
 - **14** schools participating in the IEA Program.
- 2018-19 School Year:
 - Applications are now live - due **March 30**.

Jan. 1 – July 31, 2017 Funding

- IEA funds are distributed onto an IEA debit card.
- A total of **\$114,713.75** in IEA funding was generated.
 - The average amount of IEA awards across the state was approximately **\$3,227.54**.
- **\$60,449.48** in IEA funding was spent.
 - 29% tuition at participating private schools
 - 19% curriculum
 - 17% computer hardware and technological devices
 - 16% contributions to ABLE TN accounts

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Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

IEA Webpage, Update, & Email Address

- IEA Webpage: <http://www.tn.gov/education/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



Parent Communications

- 2017-18 IEA Parent Handbook & Addendum
- IEA Account Holder trainings
 - PowerPoint and recorded webinar posted on the IEA webpage.
- Live online expense report Q&A sessions
- New IEA Account Holder Update distributed monthly
- IEA Parent Information Sessions
 - PowerPoint and recorded webinar posted on the IEA webpage.
- IEA postcard distributed in November 2017.

Private School Communications

- 2017-18 IEA Provider Handbook & Addendum
- IEA Participating School trainings
 - PowerPoint and recorded webinar posted on the IEA webpage.
- IEA Private School Information Sessions
 - PowerPoint and recorded webinar posted on the IEA webpage.
- CPA statement and surety bond template for private schools applying to participate in the IEA Program

School District Communications

- IEA school district trainings
 - PowerPoint and recorded webinar posted on the IEA webpage
- Monthly IEA enrollment emails to school districts
- IEA resources for school districts:
 - School District Responsibilities Guide
 - EIS & SIS Guide
 - Sample IEA Parent Intent Form for School Districts

External Stakeholder Communications

- External Advisory Group meetings
- IEA team gives presentations as requested
- Distribution of monthly IEA Update

New IEA Program Reports

- 2016-17 IEA Program Implementation Report
- Student Enrollment Data Aug. 1, 2017–July 31, 2018
- SY17 Q3 Quarterly Expense Report Summary
- SY17 Q4 Quarterly Expense Report Summary
- SY18 Q1 Quarterly Expense Report Summary

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Implementation Challenges and Successes

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Challenges

- Monitoring the use of the IEA funds.
- Ensuring that account holders meet the IEA responsibilities.
- Educating parents on the IEA eligibility requirements.
 - Ensuring parents of students applying to participate in the IEA Program meet the eligibility requirements set by state law.
 - Processing student and school applications in a timely manner.
 - Providing support to parents and schools submitting applications.

Successes

- TDOE continues to engage and receive feedback from parents, schools, and other stakeholders.
- Focus on providing great customer service and improving the resources and communications for parents, private schools, school districts, and other stakeholders.
- Improvements made to all IEA resources, forms, and systems for the 2017-18 school year.
 - Increased efficiency for processing forms.
 - Developed and implemented new funding system, including distribution and monitoring of funds.
 - Implemented a new forms system.

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Implementation Next Steps

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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 with 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 are 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 January.

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Thank you!



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