



Addressing Requests for a Specific Methodology or Curriculum

The IDEA requires an IEP to include *“a statement of the special education, related services and supplementary aids and services, based on peer-reviewed research to the extent practicable, to be provided to the child.”* 34 C.F.R. §300.320 (a)(4). **However, the IDEA does not require that the IEP identify the specific methodology that the district will use.** The comments to the federal regulations state that *“there is nothing in the [IDEA] that requires an IEP to include specific instructional methodologies.”* 71 Fed. Reg. 46,665 (2006). See also 34 C.F.R. §300.320(d)(1).

However, the law also does not preclude districts from including a specific methodology in a student’s IEP. The decision of whether to include a specific methodology in a child’s IEP belongs to the IEP team.

If the IEP team finds that the specific instructional methods are necessary for the child to receive FAPE, the IEP should specify the instructional methods in the IEP. See 71 Fed. Reg. 46,665 (2006).

Districts should note, however, that educators will have greater flexibility if the IEP does not require the use of a specific methodology.

Typically, an IEP lacks specificity so that many different methods and techniques can be used to meet a child's specific educational needs.

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