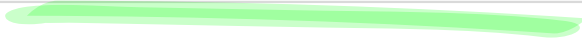


Introduction to Special Education

AACPS Special Education Compliance 2023



Hello!

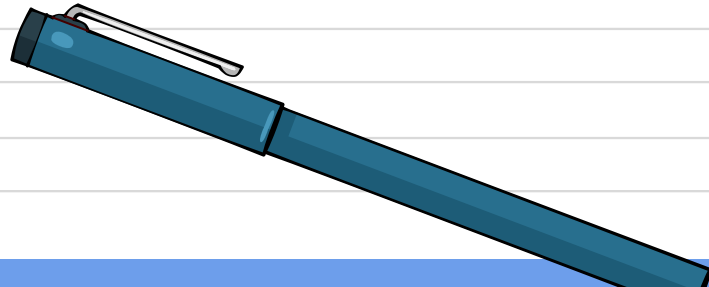
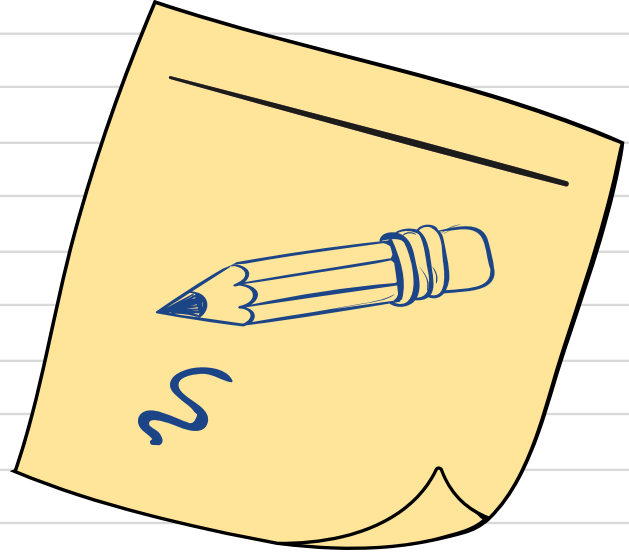


Jennifer Brown

Program Manager of Compliance
and Legal Issues

(410)222-5422

jebrown2@aacps.org



Outcomes



Participants will:

- Review the required members of an IEP team, and understand the parent's role
- Understand the special education referral and eligibility process
- Understand what an IEP is, including components of an IEP
- Review critical special education timelines
- Understand parents' rights in the special education process

Common Acronyms

IEP/IFSP

Individualized Education
Program/
Individual Family Service
Plan

FAPE

Free and Appropriate
Public Education

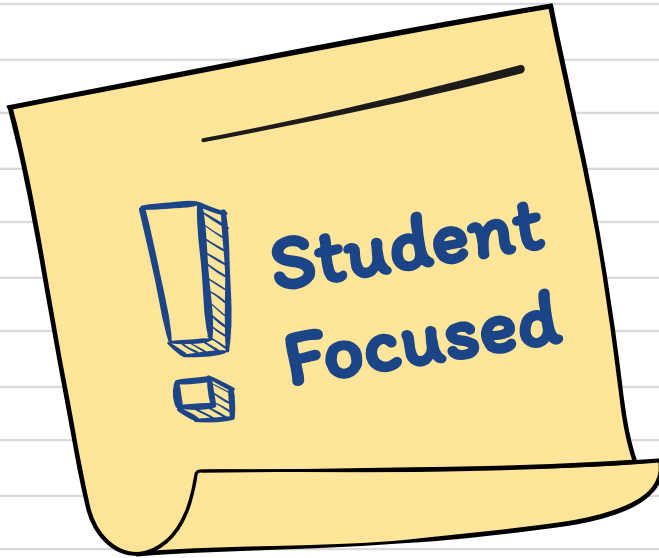
$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

LRE

Least Restrictive
Environment

PWN

Prior Written Notice



“In special education, there’s too much emphasis placed on the deficit and not enough on the strength.” –


—**Temple Grandin**



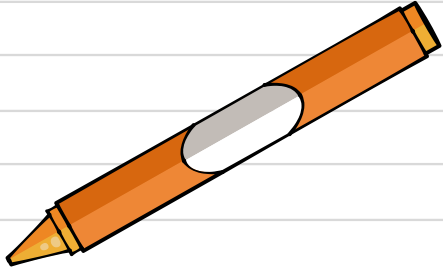
01



The IEP Team



What constitutes a
legal IEP team?





An IEP Team Must Include:

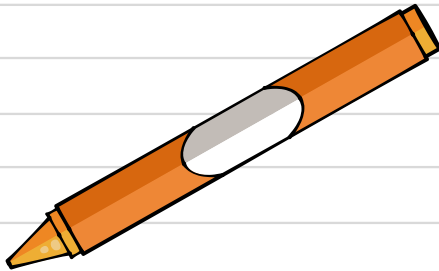

- The parents of the student
- At least one regular education teacher of the student
- At least one special education teacher and/or provider
- A representative of the public agency knowledgeable about the general curriculum and the availability of the resources of the public agency
- An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results
- The student, if appropriate
- Other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student, including related services providers





02

Referral and Eligibility



How do we determine
if a student needs
special education?

Frequently Asked Questions

Who may refer a student?

Parents and school personnel.

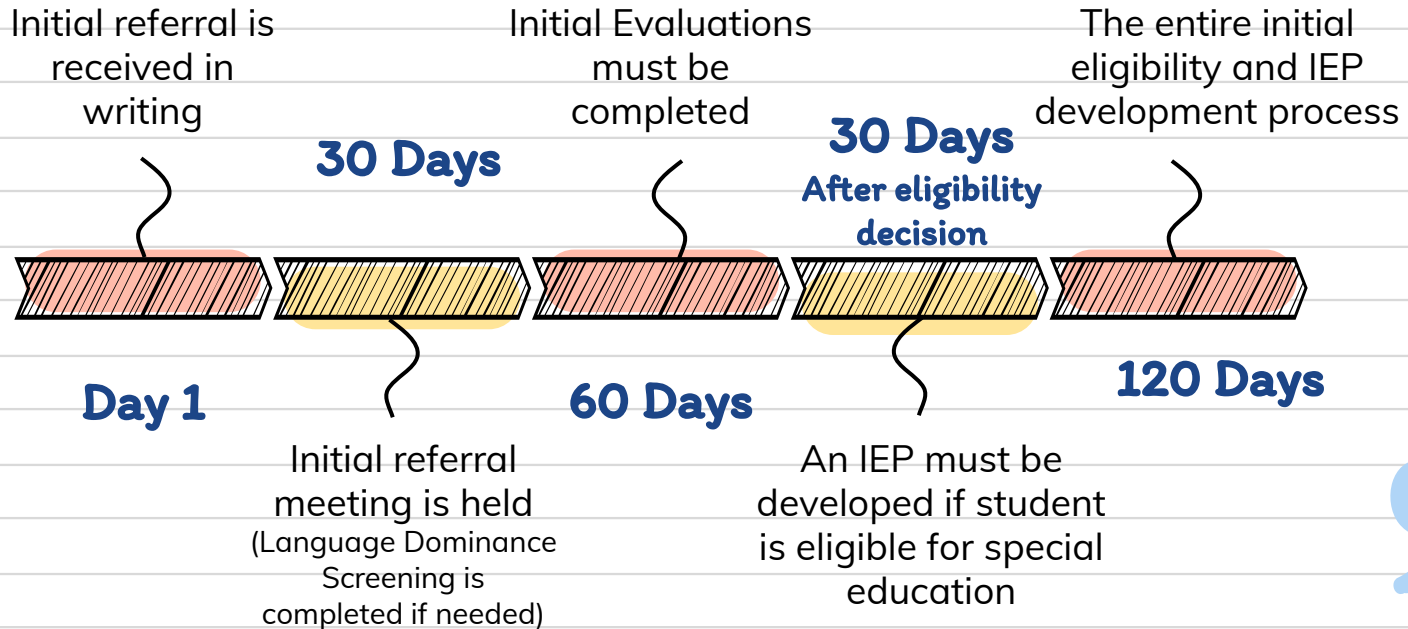
Is the team required to hold a meeting?

Yes. The IEP team must meet to consider any referral the district receives in writing. Specific timelines apply.

Is the school team required to test the student?

No. The IEP team must review all relevant data including parent input to determine if there is a reason to suspect a qualifying disability.

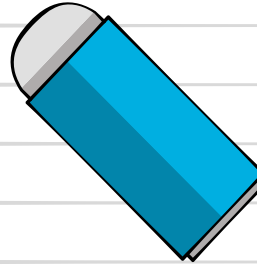
Referral and Evaluation Timelines



Two Components to Eligibility

Qualifying Disability

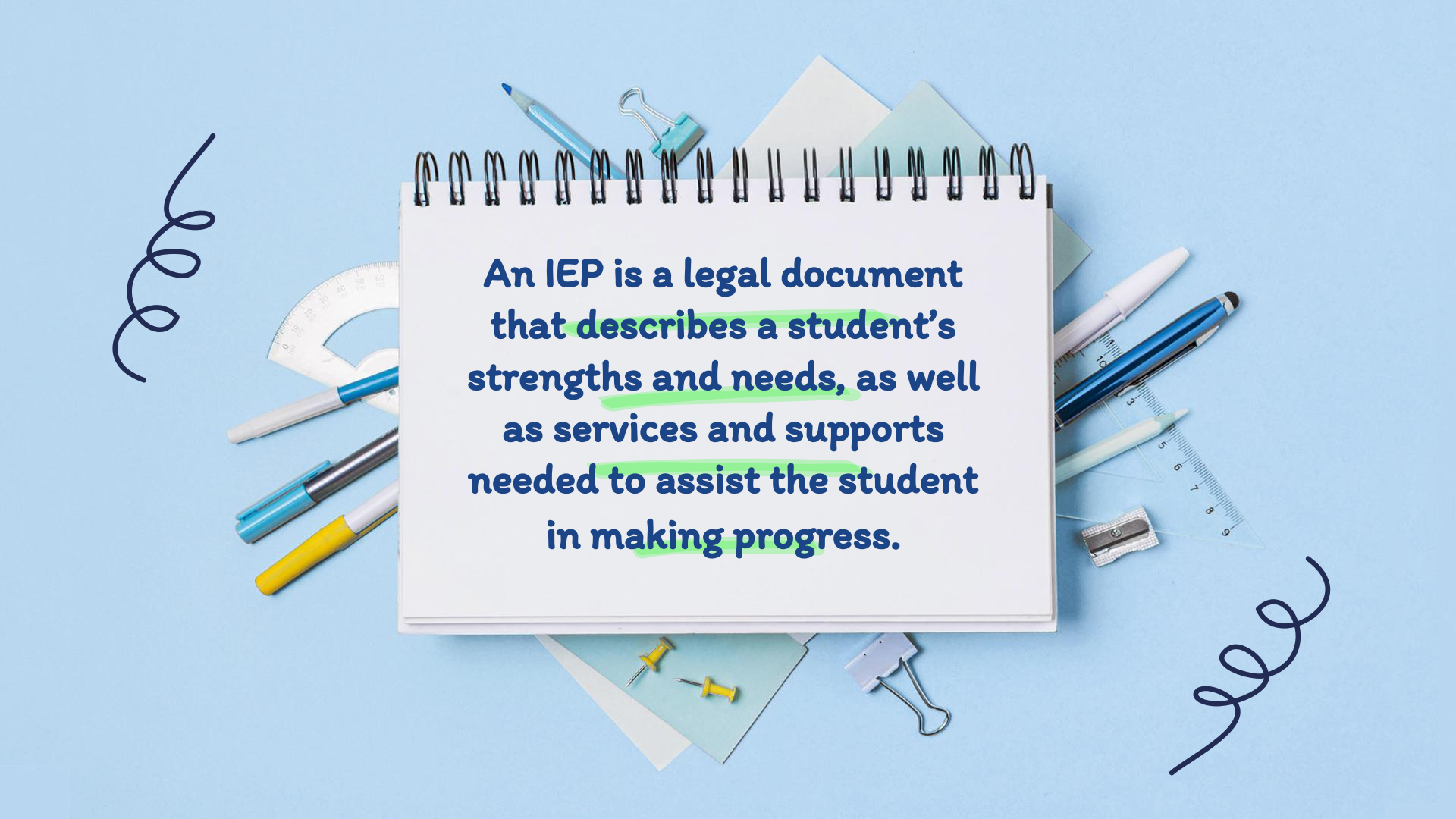
- Autism
- Deaf-blindness
- Developmental delay
- Emotional Disability
- Hearing impairment (including deafness)
- Intellectual disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Orthopedic impairments
- Other health Impairments
- Specific learning disability
- Speech or language impairment
- Traumatic brain injury
- Visual Impairments (including blindness)



$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Impact of Disability

The disability must significantly impact the student's ability to access their educational program that can only be remedied by the provision of special education services



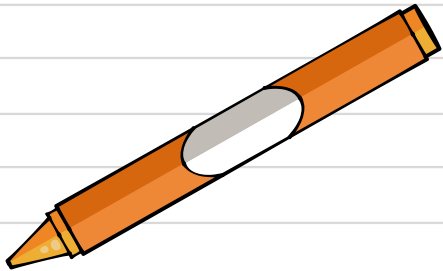

**An IEP is a legal document
that describes a student's
strengths and needs, as well
as services and supports
needed to assist the student
in making progress.**



03

IEP

Components



Required sections of
an Individualized
Education Program



The IEP is a data-driven document



The IEP sections
build upon the data
captured in the
present levels to
inform the program.



An IEP must include:

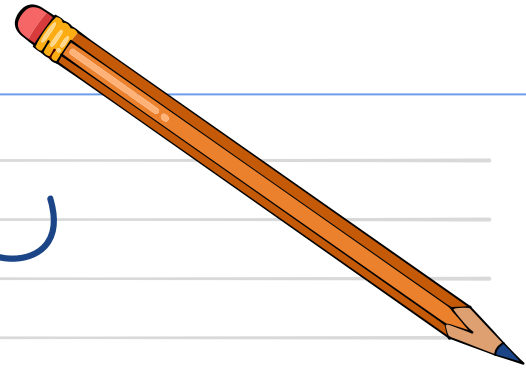
Present Levels

Transition Plan

Special Considerations

State Testing Accommodations

**Supplementary Aids and
Supports/Program Modifications**



Goals and Objectives

**A Determination for Extended
School Year Services**

**Direct Specialize Instruction and
Related Services**


An Statement of LRE



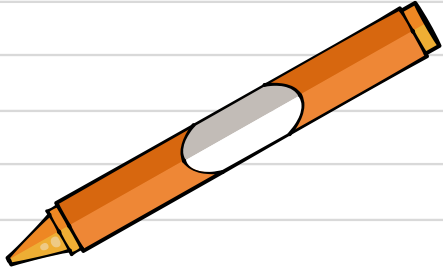
04



Other Timelines



Special Education
Timeline Requirements



Timelines and Due Dates in Special Education

Annually

An “annual review” of the IEP must occur

Triennially

A reevaluation process must occur once every three years

90 Days

Timeline to complete evaluations and update in the IEP for reevaluation

10 Calendar Days BEFORE*

Parents receive IEP meeting notice
*exception made for disciplinary meetings

5 Business Days BEFORE

Parents receive documents/draft IEP before the meeting

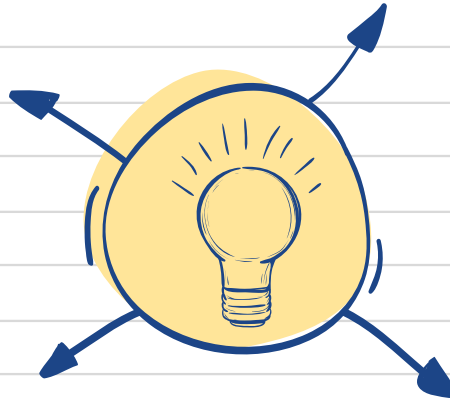
5 Business Days AFTER

Parents receive the finalized IEP, PWN and any other documents after the meeting

What is a Prior Written Notice?

Meeting minutes to outline actions the district proposes or refuses to implement

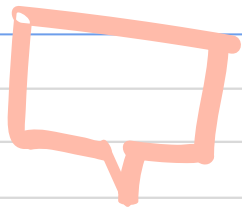
Must provide an explanation for the district's decision



Must include statement of parent input and agreement or disagreement with each action

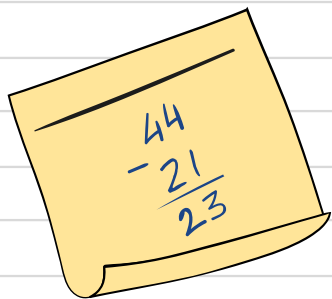
Must include other factors and/or options considered



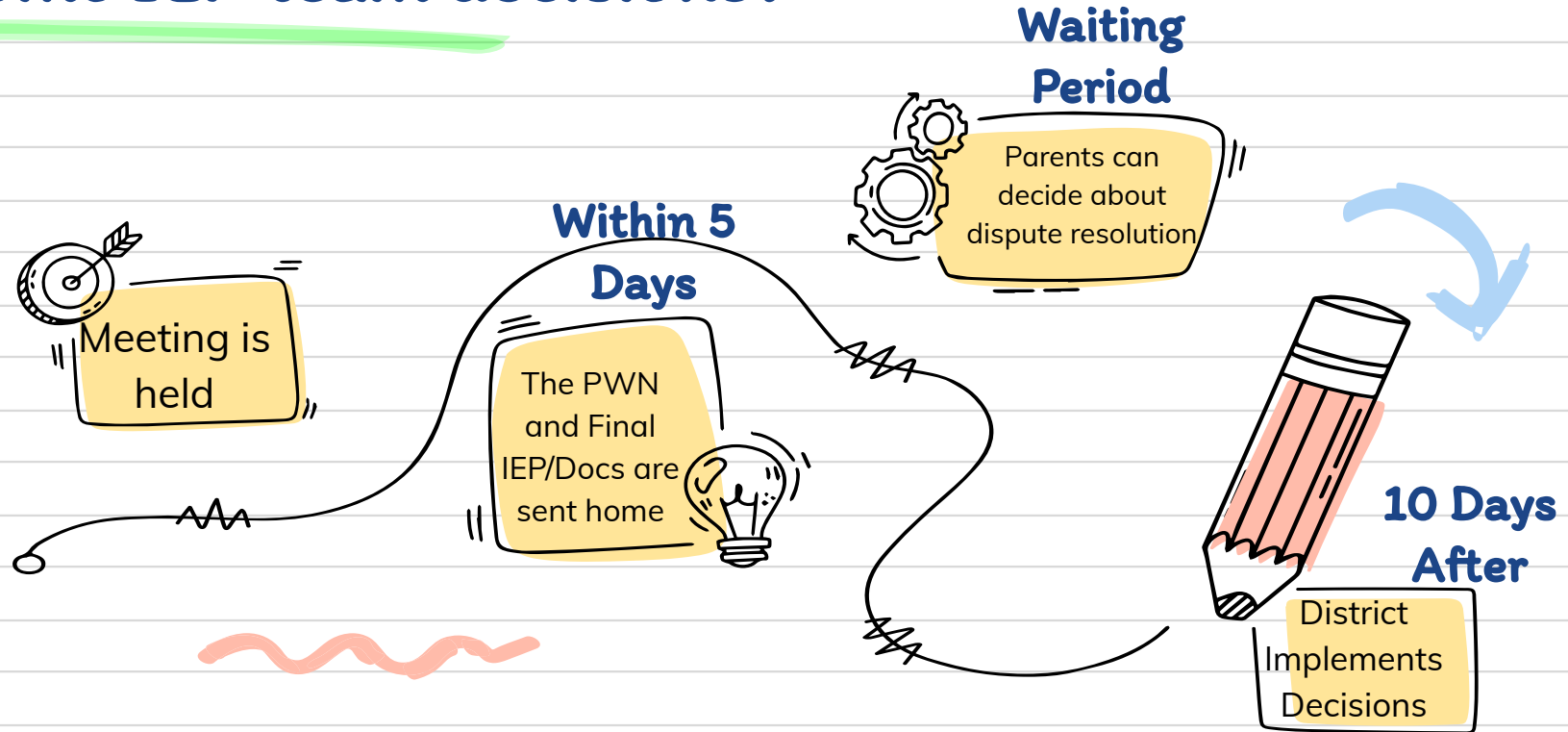


10 Business Days

Waiting period for IEP decisions
about eligibility, assessment, and
change of placement.



Why do we wait to implement some IEP team decisions?





05



Parental Rights



Maryland Procedural
Safeguards Notice



Your Rights:



Consent

Outlines the actions that require parental consent and district requirements to get consent.

IEE

Explains when a parent may be entitled to an Independent Educational Evaluation at public expense.

Confidentiality

Defines what is confidential and how/when confidential information may be shared. Also, parent request for records amendment



Your Rights:



Discipline

Defines the rights of children with disabilities with regard to disciplinary action and change of placement.

Dispute Resolution

Outlines the options parents have to resolve disagreements with the district and failure to follow regulations.

Other Info

- Surrogate Parents
- Unilateral Placement
- Transfer of Rights
- Attorneys' Fees





Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

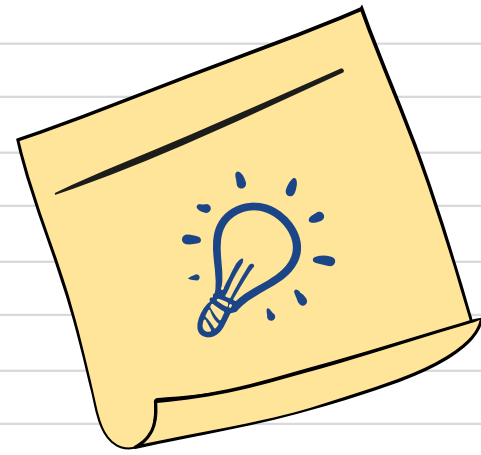
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Resources



- AACPS Special Education Page: <https://www.aacps.org/specialeducation>
- AACPS Partners for Success: <https://www.aacps.org/partnersforsuccess>
- AACPS SECAC: <https://www.aacps.org/Page/1136>
- AACPS Compliance and Legal Issues: <https://www.aacps.org/Page/1518>
- MSDE Early Intervention and Special Education Services:
<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/pages/special-education/index.aspx>
- MSDE Family Support & Dispute Resolution Branch:
<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Special-Education/FSDR/index.aspx>
- Parents' Place Maryland: <https://www.ppmmd.org/>

