

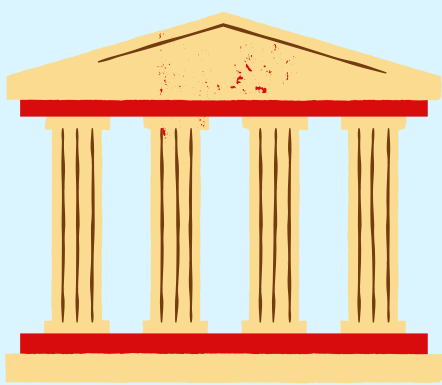
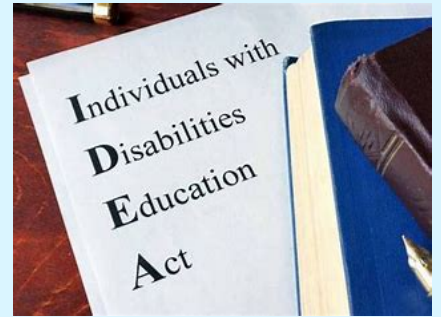
What an IDEA!

A guide to why Physical Therapists should be familiar with IDEA

What is IDEA?

The Individuals with Disabilities Act is a federal law that allows children with disabilities to free appropriate public education and ensures special education and related services tailored to the child's needs.

There are 4 parts to IDEA: Parts A-D which covers children from birth to age 21.



Historical Context

President Gerald Ford signed the Education of All Handicapped Children Act into law on November 29, 1975. Now known as IDEA, this law grants access to FAPE in the least restrictive environment to every child with a disability

FAPE: Free and Appropriate Public Education

IDEA Parts A-D

Part A: General Provisions

In this section the purpose of the act and definitions of statutes are provided.

Part B: Assistance for Children aged 3-21

This provision assists states in providing FAPE in the least restrictive environment for ages 3-21

Part C: Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities

These provisions utilize grants and assists states in providing early intervention services for children from birth to age 2

Part D: National Activities to Improve Education of Children with Disabilities

This section includes provisions related to discretionary grants to support the state's ability to provide for these children.

To find out more about IDEA please go to www.idea.ed.gov



How is PT involved in care?

The IDEA Act allows for children with disabilities to receive care through the school system. Physical Therapy is a service that can enhance the education of the child.

In the school-based setting, IDEA Part B ensures that children aged 3-21 have access to Physical Therapy services.

How are services determined?

Through IDEA Part B, children are required to be placed in the least restrictive environment in order to be inclusive and enhance the education that is provided

Accommodations and placements are usually determined during the IEP meeting which takes place within 30 days of eligibility. The IEP team meets once per year and determines the best course of action for the student.



What does IDEA not encompass?

IDEA has a lot of moving parts. Here are some things to be aware of:

- There are no specific recommendations on what services are to be provided based on the child's disability.
- The Child's IPE must have the services listed in order for the child to receive them. This includes Physical Therapy

