

Individualized Education Account (IEA) Application Policy

Pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-11-.03, to participate in the IEA program, an applicant must fully complete the appropriate application, available on the Department's website, by the stipulated deadline set by the Department. The applicant shall be a parent/guardian of the student or a student who has reached eighteen (18) years of age.

To be approved, an applicant must meet the eligibility requirements set out in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-10-1402(3) and State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-11-.02(11). Once the IEA team determines an applicant meets the eligibility requirements, the applicant will be notified that their application is approved and provided the documents needed to participate in the IEA program.

In exceptional cases, the Department may consider applications submitted after the official deadline. Applicants who miss the deadline and wish to apply late must submit a request to the IEA program within a reasonable amount of time after the closure of the application window and provide a detailed explanation and supporting documentation to demonstrate that the delay was due to circumstances beyond the applicant's control. Lack of knowledge of the IEA Program or application deadlines shall not be considered an approvable justification for a late application. All final decisions to accept or reject untimely submissions based upon a justifiable delay shall be made by the Commissioner or Commissioner's designee. If a late application, justified by uncontrollable factors, is approved, the IEA Director will supply the necessary application forms to the applicant. Regardless of their submission time, all applications will be evaluated based on the standard eligibility criteria in accordance with the Individualized Education Act and State Board Rule, as stated above.

Adopted on August 8, 2023, revised on August 8, 2024