

SELF-DETERMINATION AND YOUR CHILD'S IEP



Dear Parent(s) or Guardian,

We would like to give your child the opportunity to be more involved in the development of his/her IEP (Individual Education Plan).

We believe that if we prepare your child by teaching him/her more about how a disability affects learning, identify the parts and contents of an IEP, discover his/her strengths and weaknesses, and give him/her the opportunity to be self-advocating, then your student will be more prepared for life in school and in the community. The skills mentioned above are called **self-determination skills**. Self-determination skills mean knowing yourself, knowing what you want in your future and how to plan for it, as well as knowing the supports you will need to have control in your life.

There are different levels considered for each child as they create and present his/her education plan (IEP). Your child may create invitations for the meeting, make a list of strengths and challenges during class, introduce IEP team members, share plans for the future, create PowerPoint presentations, participate in part or the entire meeting with the rest of his/her team, and/or write thank you notes after the meeting. We would love your input as we find out the level that your child is comfortable participating.

Because you and your child are a valuable and essential part of the IEP team we want you to know about our plans to prepare your child to play a more active role in creating his/her education plan this school year. We feel it is important that all students be ready for life after high school and that it is never too early to learn who you are and how you learn.

We hope that you are able to come be a part of your child's next IEP and see what he/she has learned about themselves and their abilities to succeed in their future.

Return the bottom portion to your child's teacher **ONLY if you DON'T** wish for your child to participate in his/her IEP. To learn more about self-determination skills or your child's participation in the IEP, please contact your child's teacher or April Lee, Special Education Parent Mentor, at 427-1000 ext 48, alee@wayne.k12.ga.us.

Sincerely,

Special Education Department

Only Return if you **DON'T** wish for your child to participate

_____ I do not wish for my child to participate in his/her IEP.

Student's Name _____ Parent's Signature _____