

Topic: I.E.P. Extensions
Date: 09/01/05

Question: Is there a way that the parent(s) or IEP team can extend the ending date of an IEP (i.e.: 8/25/04 initiation date and 8/24/05 ending date). For example, what if the parents or team wish to extend the ending date from 8/24/05 to 9/24/05.

Answer: Yes. The IEP team can change the dates to reflect the extended timeline requested/suggested, for example, 8/24/05 to 9/24/05, IF,

- A new IEP is written to reflect the "coverage" dates (those listed above, for example).
- The new IEP may continue with any goals and objectives that have not been met on the current IEP, OR,
- A new goal and at least one benchmark need to be written. This goal can be "broadly" defined rather than very specific.

Teams **cannot:**

- Continue with the current IEP and simply record on staffing notes or agree on the phone or in person.
- Write an amendment to the IEP (because you are not amending the current IEP during the 1 yr. period it was active. You need to re-write it to extend it beyond the normal ending date.)

When auditors review files during the summer they need to be able to document that there was continuous delivery of services for each student. If you do not have an active IEP throughout the year this reflects a "gap" in services (the 1 month period referred to above). If this happens to be a medicaid child we lose the reimbursement for that 30-day period. The "gap" in service also results in a compliance indicator being unmet.

Only in very rare instances should an IEP not be renewed on or prior to the ending anniversary date.

Telephone conference calls are now allowable under the law.

An AIM's packet is required and needs to be sent to the special education offices within 2 calendar weeks of the changes being made.