

IDEA: Questions and Answers

1. Q.: Describe the four major parts of the IDEA and their purposes.

A.: Part A of the IDEA contains general provisions of the Act that include its objectives, terms definitions, description of the state and lacks of education for individuals with disabilities at the time of passing of the Act, and explanation of who is a considered an individual with disability. The purpose of the part A is to justify why federal government should intervene in education of individuals with disabilities. The purpose of the part B is to address special educational needs of 3-21 year old individuals via establishing educational requirements and providing information about state grant program and educational plans designed to ensure free appropriate public education, as well as via determining procedures student evaluation. The part C applies to infants and toddlers (age 0-2) and determines early intervention services to eligible children and their families under the federal grant program via categorical grant via participating states. Lastly, part D's purpose is to determine national activities to assist states in IDEA implementation and improve the education of students with disabilities through technical assistance, professional development, research, and state grant program.

2. Q.: Describe a manifestation determination. What is the purpose of the determination?

A.: The manifestation determination is a process whereby student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team and other qualified personnel determine whether a student's demonstration of problematic behavior is associated with his/her disability. The

manifestation determination is employed when a student, recipient of special educational services, is considered for suspension, expulsion, or alternative placement for more than ten school days. The purpose of the manifestation determination is to determine whether there is a relationship between a student's disability and misconduct. If the misconduct and disability are not related, a student with disability will be held as accountable for his/her actions as a student without disability. However, if the misconduct was caused by disability, the student may not be expelled, and IEP team becomes responsible for the development of a plan to alter problematic behavior.

3. Q.: Explain the major changes made to the IEP in the 2004 reauthorization.

A.: Following major changes were made to the IEP in the 2004 reauthorization. Firstly, IEP must include measurable yearly educational goals and a description of how a student's progress will be appraised. Secondly, upon agreement of school authorities and parents, changes in IEPs can be made without convening IEP. Thirdly, benchmarks in IEPs and short-term objectives were replaced with the established by No Child Left behind Act's system for measuring student's academic progress. Lastly, IEP team member may be excused from the meeting if this person's area of service or curriculum is not subject to change, or when the input was provided prior to meeting.

4. Q.: IDEA 2004 defined a highly qualified special education teacher according to the standards developed in NCLB. List and briefly explain the three requirements that a highly qualified special education teacher must meet.

A.: In accordance with standards developed in NCLB, IDEA 2004 defined as a highly qualified special education teacher a person (teacher) who meets three following requirements: (a) has a valid full state certification, (b) has sufficient educational level, and (c) demonstrates sufficient competence. Having valid state certification means that a teacher must have certification/licensure from the state as a special education teacher. Additionally, no conditional, temporary, or emergency certificates or licensure are considered valid. Sufficient educational level means that a teacher must have at least a bachelor's degree. Sufficient competence means that a teacher must demonstrate content expertise in the core academic subject that he or she teaches. Therefore, in order to satisfy the federal definition of a highly qualified, teacher has to be a certified person with at least bachelor's degree who demonstrates competence of subject matter.