



Getting the Most Out of IEPs: An Educator's Guide to the Student-Directed Approach

Colleen Thoma Ph.D., Paul Wehman Ph.D.

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Student-directed IEPs are quickly gaining momentum in schools across the country—the proven benefits include higher academic achievement, enhanced student motivation, and increased communication and self-advocacy skills for students with disabilities. Now for the first time, there's a book that gives elementary and high school educators in-depth how-to guidance on making student-directed IEPs work for students with a range of special needs.

Packed with practical advice, helpful examples, and IEP resources for students themselves, this cutting-edge guidebook finally puts into print the best ideas for developing meaningful student-directed IEPs while adhering to legal requirements and evidence-based practices. Teachers will learn how to support students—regardless of their current skills and abilities—as they increase their own level of direction across every facet of the IEP process:

- articulating strengths, needs, and legal rights
- setting clear goals and evaluating progress
- advocating effectively for themselves in formal settings
- determining and securing appropriate accommodations
- communicating preferences and interests
- accepting responsibility for areas where improvement is needed
- participating fully in discussions about post-school plans and needs

Destined to elevate future standards for the IEP process, this compelling and accessible book will help teachers ensure customized, highly effective educational plans for students of all ages. Teachers will empower students to take a lead role in directing their education, advocating for support, and shaping a bright, self-determined future.

Bring students into the IEP process with

- More than **100 quick tips** and practical strategies from teacher focus groups
- **Step-by-step guidance** for increasing student involvement at any level
- A wide range of **case studies** featuring students from ages 9–19
- **Helpful big-picture view of IEPs across 7 stages**—from school-directed to student-directed

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