



Writing Effective Annual Goals

IEP goals are a description of what a student is reasonably expected to accomplish in one year. There must be a direct relationship between each IEP goal and the needs identified in the PLOP. Every identified in the PLOP must be address in annual goals or some other place in the IEP. Effective annual goals outline the general direction for a student's instruction and assist in determining specific courses and course levels, experiences, and other skills a student may need to be provided with a free appropriate public education. Effective annual goals are **meaningful, specific, measurable, and monitor-able**.

A goal is **meaningful** if:

- It targets an identified area of need in terms of where the student is now
- It provides specific, reasonable and measurable strategies which can be monitored for effectiveness.
- It addresses areas of need necessary for success in school and in post-school life.
- The family believes it is important

A goal is **specific** if it clearly:

- Outlines the area of need being targeted,
- Outlines the strategies that will be employed to address the need and
- Outlines the manner in which progress will measured.

A goal is **measurable** (data collection) if:

- The relationship between the intervention strategy and the area of need is clearly outlined.
- The unit of measure is clearly outlined. And
- The frequency of measure is clearly outlined.

A goal is **monitor-able** if:

- Data collection is done consistently,
- Data collection is done accurately and
- It can be used to help make decisions about the student's needs.

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- There are multiple measurable increments of performance between the area of need as outlined in the PLOP and the projected gain outlined in the goal.

Insist on goals in you student's IEP which are **meaningful, specific, measurable,** and **monitor-able**. Effective goals will help the team monitor the effectiveness of a student's individualized education program and whether it is reasonably calculated to provide the student with educational benefit.