

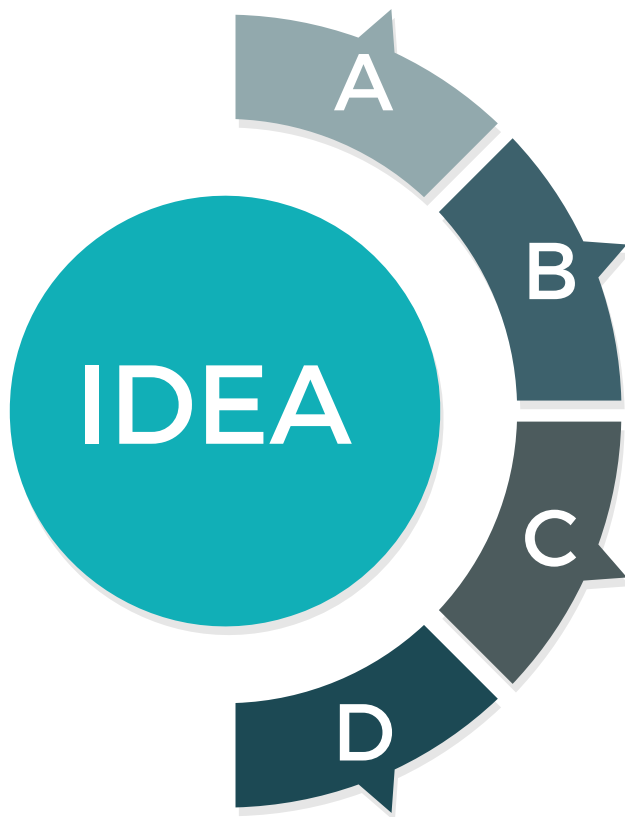
Use this handout to remember how the four parts of IDEA protect the rights and educational access of students with disabilities in Washington State.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that entitles children to special education services if disability significantly impacts access to education and a specially designed program is needed.

PART A

Part A includes a statement of the overall purpose and goals of IDEA, definitions for key terms used throughout IDEA, provisions emphasizing non-discrimination and equal opportunity for children with disabilities, and a section outlining the policy and findings that led to the enactment of the legislation.

Part A includes the following statement regarding its purpose: “to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living...”



PART B

Part B of the IDEA covers children ages 3 through 21, or until graduation from high school. Students who receive services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) are covered under Part B.

To qualify for special education under Part B of IDEA, a student must have or show signs of having a disability that negatively impacts their learning.

Students must be evaluated to determine their eligibility under one of fourteen categories determined by IDEA and implemented under [WAC 392-172A-01035](#).

PART C

Part C protects children Birth to age 3 who need family support for [early learning](#). The disability category of developmental delay overlaps early learning and IEP and can qualify a child for free, family-focused services to age 3 and school-based services through age 9.

In Washington, the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) administers services for eligible children from birth to age 3 through [Early Support for Infants and Toddlers \(ESIT\)](#).

PART D

IDEA Part D funds are used to initiate various programs across states to improve the education of children with disabilities through professional development programs, parent training and information centers, education technology, transition services, and early intervention services.

The [Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\)](#) developed a [multi-tiered system of supports \(MTSS\)](#) that aims to provide comprehensive training and technical assistance on evidence-based strategies that are designed to address students' academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs holistically by incorporating [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#) and [Response to Intervention \(RtI\)](#).

[PAVE](#) and [Open Doors for Multicultural Families](#) are funded by Part D to help families of children with disabilities understand their rights under IDEA, navigate the special education process, and engage effectively in their children's education.

[Learn more about IDEA: The Foundation of Special Education in this PAVE article.](#)