



What is FAPE?

FAPE stands for Free Appropriate Public Education. It's a crucial concept in education law that ensures all children, regardless of their disabilities, have the right to receive an education that meets their unique needs at public expense.

What FAPE Means:

1. **Free:** FAPE means that eligible children with disabilities receive their education without any cost to their families. This includes all necessary services, from special education classes to transportation and any related services that might be needed.
2. **Appropriate:** The education provided under FAPE must be tailored to meet the specific needs of each child. It's not a one-size-fits-all approach. Instead, it considers the individual requirements of the student to help them achieve their educational goals.
3. **Public:** FAPE guarantees that these educational services are available in public schools and other public education settings. It ensures access to education in the least restrictive environment possible, meaning that students with disabilities should be educated alongside their peers without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.

Why FAPE Matters:

FAPE is essential because it ensures that every child, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, has the opportunity to receive a quality education. It aims to level the playing field and provide students with the tools they need to succeed academically and beyond.

Who Qualifies for FAPE:

Children who have been identified as having a disability that impacts their ability to learn and who require special education and related services are eligible for FAPE. This includes students with physical, cognitive, emotional, or developmental disabilities.

Ensuring Compliance:

School districts are legally obligated to provide FAPE under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This law outlines specific procedures and requirements that schools must follow to identify, evaluate, and provide services to students with disabilities.

If you have any more questions, feel free to reach out to hello@loveyourschool.org! We want to hear from you!

More Resources:

[What is and isn't covered under FAPE - Understood.Org](#)

[Download: FAPE at a glance - Understood.Org](#)

[The complete guide to understanding FAPE \(Free Appropriate Public Education\) - IEP Law Firm PC](#)

[34 CFR § 300.17 - Cornell Law](#)