

Competency Based Individual Education Plans

Overview

Competency Based Individual Education Plans (CBIEPs) are based on the BC Curriculum, which includes Core Competencies and Curricular Competencies.

21st century learning requires a new set of skills for student success. Information and media literacy, critical and creative thinking, as well as communication, collaboration, and social skills have become as essential as academic skills. The BC Ministry of Education and Child Care re-designed the K-12 curriculum to reflect these changes for all students with a focus on the development of competencies to foster deeper learning. CBIEPs are focused on student agency and self-regulated learning.

The Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies all students need to engage in deep, lifelong learning. They are intended to support academic learning and foundations skill building, as well as help students develop into well-rounded individuals.

The Core Competencies are often interconnected, foundational to all learning, and an integral part of the curriculum. Students develop Core Competencies when they are engaged in the “doing”- the Curricular Competencies- within a learning area.

Curricular Competencies are the skills, strategies, and processes that students develop over time. While these competencies are more subject-specific, they are also connected to the core competencies. Together, they are key to the development of the whole person.

Key Feature of the Competency Based IEP

Competency Based IEPs are:

- Strengths-based and student-centred- focusing on what learners CAN do
- Developed over the course of a student’s schooling and are part of the curriculum for all students
- Representative of growth-based continuums that include all learners
- Based on Universal Design principles that focus on accessibility to support inclusion
- Aligned with the same curriculum as peers
- Inclusive of family and student input; they are worded from the student’s point of view
- Developed with goals and objectives that target areas of growth
- Written and managed by a school-based case manager
- Reviewed each year
- The same, province wide

Given that competencies are on a developmental continuum, all students are included. Students may be at different stages in different areas.

The Competency Based IEP Development Process

The Competency Based IEP development process is intended to be:

- Student centred with the creation of a Student and Learning Profile that includes the voice of the learner
- Reflective of the student's strengths, interests, and needs
- Developed with consultation and collaboration, and starts with the learner. It incorporates multiple voices, including the student, family, school staff, and the larger team.

Elements of a Competency Based IEP

All students who have a CBIEP, regardless of individualized needs, will at minimum have one core competency goal. Many students will have more than one core competency goal and some will have curricular competency goals in the academic areas where they require additional instruction or more individualized programming.

Usually one or two areas will be selected as a focus for the CBIEP, even though a student's plan may be more extensive. These areas are collaboratively chosen based on the Student Profile. Once selected, the CBIEP goals and objectives are written using student-friendly language from the core competencies, and in some cases the curricular competencies.

CBIEPs will vary in complexity and objectives are specific to the student and reflect their progress toward meeting a long-term goal. CBIEPs will be evaluated regularly and adjusted as needed.