

## Frequency, Duration, and Location of Services

The [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) \(7\)](#) requires that the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for a student receiving special education and related services contain a statement of the “anticipated frequency, location, and duration of those services.”

The Federal Register dated August 14, 2006, provides guidance in this area within its discussion of the comments regarding the proposed 2006 IDEA regulations. A comment to the regulations asked for clarification regarding the term duration.

The response in the Federal Register was:

**ff** The meaning of the term “duration” will vary, depending on such things as the needs of the child, the service being provided, the particular format used in an IEP, and how the child’s day and IEP are structured. What is required is that the IEP include information about the amount of services that will be provided to the child, so that the level of the agency’s commitment of resources will be clear to parents and other IEP Team members. The amount of time to be committed to each of the various services to be provided must be appropriate to the specific service, and clearly stated in the IEP in a manner that can be understood by all involved in the development and implementation of the IEP.

[\(Federal Register, Vol 71 No 156 p. 46667\)](#)

**Each IEP must include the frequency, duration, and location of the services to be provided. ARD committees should review all IEPs to be sure that the LEA’s commitment of resources is clear.**

**For each special education and related service to be provided to the student, the following is to be included in the IEP:**

**Frequency** — how often the service is to be provided.

**Amount of time** — the minutes per session for the service

**Beginning/ending date** — the starting and ending dates of the specific service

**Location of service** — the setting (e.g., general education or special education) where the service is to be provided.

| Frequency   | Duration   | Location  |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>How often will the service be provided (daily, weekly)?</b><br/>If a service is provided less than daily then the conditions for the provision of the services must be clearly specified within the ARD committee documents using a weekly reference (1 hour a week, 30 minutes every two weeks).</p> | <p><b>How long will the services be provided?</b><br/>The beginning and ending dates must be specified.</p> <p><b>How long will each session be (15 minutes, 30 minutes)?</b><br/>If a term (1 class period) is used in the IEP to define the duration of service, the term must be defined in the IEP (example: 1 class period = 50 minutes).</p> | <p><b>Where will the services be provided?</b><br/>Select the general education classroom or another setting such as a special education resource classroom, or both <b>wherever services will be provided.</b></p> |



**NOTE:** Local Education Agencies (LEA) are advised to review their current practices (operating guidelines, training, and support to staff) regarding documenting the frequency, duration, and location of services to ensure the documentation requirement aligns with practice.