

Activity 1: “BEFORE” Jigsaw

Purpose: To provide opportunities for workshop participants who already have a foundation in special education practices to review the contents of the booklet “Guidelines for Making Decisions about IEP Services”

Step 1: Form groups consisting of 4 or 5 participants (1 minute)

Step 2: Assign each group one of the following sections of the booklet:
(3 minutes)

- a. Background and Legal Context
- b. Team Practices
- c. Learn About the Student & Learn About the Context

Multiple groups may be assigned the same sections if needed.

Acknowledge that much of the information in the BEFORE section of the booklet is probably well to know to participants, but may be less well known by some other team members.

Step 3: Ask each group to read the 4 to 6 pages from the section(s) they were assigned.
(6 minutes)

Step 4: Once read, have the group discuss the content by responding to the following questions (10 minutes):

- a. What were the main points that stood out to you as most important?
- b. Was there any information that you thought would be especially valuable to share with parents, administrators, teachers, special educators or related services providers?
- c. To what extent do you think this information is known and applied in the schools where you work?

Ask the team to be prepared to share their thoughts with the larger group (use roles such as recorder, facilitator, timekeeper, presenter).

Step 5: Reconvene as a large group and ask representatives of the small groups to share their main discussion points based on the three questions listed in Step 4. (25 minutes, approximately 8 minutes per category).