

The 5-Line IEP Script

RAISING COMPLEX KIDS CANADA

Take this into the meeting
"You're a signatory, not an audience"

Schools respond to **the words they are given**. "I'm worried about my son" gets you sympathy and a pamphlet. A formal request, phrased as a formal request, triggers a documented process the school is required to follow. The school isn't withholding help — it's answering what it was actually asked for.

How to use this page: print it and take it in. Read the lines off the paper if you need to — nobody minds, and it is far better than trying to remember them at the table. Say them in order. *You do not need to be aggressive. These are professional requests made by a parent who knows the system.*

1

IF YOU'RE STILL ON A WAITLIST — OPEN WITH THIS

"I don't have a diagnosis yet, and I understand the school can act on suspected need."

The most expensive myth in Canadian special education is that you have to wait for the assessment. **Schools have a duty to accommodate suspected need, not just documented need.** A two-year waitlist is not a reason to receive nothing in the meantime.

2

MOVE IT FROM CONVERSATION TO RECORD

"I'm formally requesting that this meeting result in a written plan with specific, measurable accommodations."

The word **formally** is doing the work. **Written, specific and measurable** are the difference between "we'll keep an eye on him" and something you can hold the school to in June.

3

BUY YOURSELF THE KITCHEN TABLE

"I'd like a draft copy of the plan at least five school days before I'm asked to sign it."

You are allowed to take it home. You are allowed to read it slowly, without six professionals watching you skim. **Most parents don't know this.** Now you do.

4

PUT YOUR DISAGREEMENT INSIDE THE DOCUMENT

"I'd like to note my concerns in writing, as part of the record."

If you disagree with something, your disagreement can live in the plan itself — not just in the air of the meeting room. **A recorded concern gets addressed in a way a spoken one doesn't.**

5

MAKE IT A COURSE CORRECTION, NOT A REPORT CARD

"I'd like to schedule a review at the midpoint of the school year, not just at the end."

A plan reviewed only in June is a verdict on a year you can't get back. **A January review is a change you can still make.**

It has a different name where you live

If you've been searching "IEP Alberta" and finding nothing, this is why.

IEP — Ontario, BC, Manitoba · **IPP** — Alberta

IIP — Saskatchewan · **EHDAA** — Quebec

The search that works anywhere: "[your province] IEP parents' rights".

Before you walk in

THE ONE THING I AM ASKING FOR

WHO IS IN THE ROOM

DATE OF THE MIDPOINT REVIEW

The reframe underneath all five

You are not in that room to **receive** a plan. You are there to **negotiate** one. A signatory is a different thing from an audience — and the moment you know that, the furniture in the room stops being intimidating. If you're reading this the night before, pick one line. Just one. Use it.