

---

# Supporting Your Student's Capstone Project and IEP Alignment: A Guide for Families

---

These practical tips will help families support their student's capstone project while ensuring it aligns with their IEP goals. By using these strategies, you can foster independence, reinforce important skills, and collaborate with the school to create a meaningful and successful experience for your student.

## 1. Know the Goals and Skills the Project Will Target

- **Understand IEP Goals:** Review your student's current IEP goals to see which skills—whether academic, social, or life skills—can be practiced or demonstrated in the capstone project.
- **Identify Key Skills for Success:** Look for connections between IEP goals and the project, like building organization skills, enhancing communication, or developing independence.

## 2. Understand Any Necessary Accommodations

- **Ask About Accommodations:** Confirm with the school that any accommodations your student usually receives (e.g., extra time, assistive technology) will be available for the project.
- **Discuss Modifications as Needed:** Inquire if any adjustments, like changing the length or format of the project, might help your student meet their goals without unnecessary stress.

## 3. Help Set Manageable Goals

- **Create Realistic Milestones:** Work with the teacher to break down the project into smaller tasks, making it easier for your student to work toward completion step-by-step.
- **Celebrate Success Along the Way:** Recognize and celebrate when your student completes each task, reinforcing their sense of accomplishment.

#### **4. Incorporate Your Student's Interests and Strengths**

- Encourage Projects Tied to Their Passions: Support project topics that align with your student's strengths or interests to help them stay motivated and excited about the work.
- Highlight Preferred Learning Styles: Discuss ways the project could incorporate your student's strengths, like using visual aids, hands-on activities, or other methods they enjoy.

#### **5. Break the Project into Steps**

- Set Clear Checkpoints: Work with your student to set regular, manageable deadlines for different parts of the project to avoid last-minute stress.
- Practice with Feedback: Ask teachers to provide feedback as the project progresses so your student can feel supported and adjust if needed.

#### **6. Stay Connected with School Support Staff**

- Reach Out to Special Education Staff: Connect with any teachers or aides familiar with your student's IEP goals, as they can offer insight or strategies that may be helpful for the project.
- Maintain Communication with the Teacher: Keep in touch with the teacher to check on progress, clarify expectations, and offer insights into what may help your student succeed.

#### **7. Reflect on the Process Together**

- Celebrate the Achievement: No matter the outcome, celebrate the hard work and effort your student put into the project. Completing a capstone project is an accomplishment!
- Discuss What Worked Well: After the project, talk with your student about what parts of the project felt good and where they might like more support next time. This can help prepare them for future projects.