

Medway Public Schools

Student Services

Guide To: Interim Alternative Educational Setting (IAES)



FAQ's



What is it?

A 45 day Interim **A**lternative **E**ducational **S**etting is a temporary placement that provides an educational environment for students in crisis other than the school, or the classroom, they currently attend.



Why are students referred?

Students can be referred for a number of reasons. Generally, students are displaying social or emotional behaviors that are maladaptive and / or dangerous. The student's TEAM believes that a different setting can stabilize the child, and allow for assessment / specialized assessment in the areas of disability or suspected disability.



Is the student still enrolled in Medway?

Yes, the student is still a Medway Public School's student.



Will the student return to Medway Public Schools after the 45 days?

It is anticipated that the student will return to Medway after 45 days. However each case is decided on an individual basis by the student's TEAM.



What if we believe our son or daughter will attend a private 766 (state approved) school afterwards, can we refer them to that school for 45 day IAES?

No. Sometimes parents or other team members lose sight of the short term and begin 'shopping around' for the longer term. In these cases, it takes weeks or months for a decision to be made, and valuable time is lost trying to find a long term placement rather than stabilizing the child; the focus becomes placement rather than stabilization. Massachusetts has a clear process of assessment, evaluation, writing / rewriting the IEP and deciding on placement. When a member of the TEAM moves immediately to placement, the Evaluation Team Supervisor is required to reorient the TEAM or TEAM member back to the process.



How long does it take to find appropriate IAES?

This can take from 2-4 weeks in general. It depends on the time of year, the demographics of the IAES at that point in time, how quickly the placement can review the paperwork and assessments, how quickly the parents can take the student for an interview, and other factors that public schools have little control over.



How many placements will I be referred to?

The district generally refers to 2-3 placements. This gives parents something to compare to, but does not become so overwhelming that 'paralysis of analysis' sets in. Remember, this needs to be a safe placement where the student can be assessed. This is not the time to look for a longer term placement.



Will someone from the district come with me to the placements?

If it is possible for a district employee to attend or meet you at the placement someone will do so. However, given the time constraints of crisis stabilization, it is often not feasible for this to happen. District personnel have visited many of these placements and may well have prior experience with the agency. It is more important for you to get your son or daughter to the interview than to wait for district personnel to attend.



What will happen after the interview?

After the interview, the agency will contact district personnel in writing with a letter of acceptance and a contract, or letter of rejection. If it's a letter of acceptance and the agency, in general, is appropriate for the student, the district will ask the parent for permission to enter into agreement with the agency on behalf of the child.



What happens after my child is accepted?

After your child is accepted, the district will set up transportation for him or her. The sending district/ accepting agency has 45 school days in which to complete testing and schedule a TEAM meeting to evaluate the results of the testing. At that meeting, the TEAM will identify the kinds of support needed for your child to be successful in school and where the specialized instruction and support will take place.



What happens on the 46th day?

This depends on what was decided by the TEAM during the meeting to decide specialized services and supports. In most cases a transition plan is written prior to the 46th day to help the student 'step down' from the interim placement and provision for a longer term placement as decided by the TEAM. In some cases that might mean a measured transition back to their original school, and sometimes it might mean an extension of the 45 days while another, longer term placement is determined based upon assessment results, IEP development and TEAM discussions. This is done on a case by case basis.



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