

Writing Strong PLAAFP Statements

Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance

1. Start With Current Data

The PLAAFP provides a clear picture of the student's current academic and functional performance. It should be based on current, relevant information that helps the IEP team understand what the student knows and can do.

Data may include:

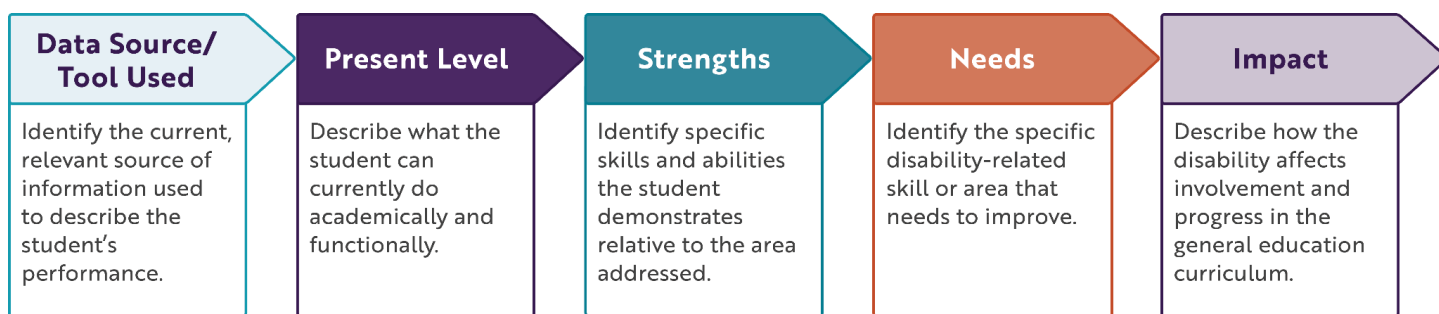
- Current evaluations and assessments
- Progress-monitoring data
- Curriculum-based measures
- Classroom performance and work samples
- Observation and provider data
- Progress toward current IEP goals
- Parent and student input
- Other relevant academic or functional data

2. Describe the Student, Not Just the Disability

A strong PLAAFP statement provides an individualized picture of the student.

Consider	Ask
 Present Level	What can the student currently do?
 Strengths	What specific skills does the student demonstrate?
 Needs	What specific disability-related skill or area needs to improve?
 Impact	How does the student's disability affect involvement and progress in the general education curriculum?

PLAAFP Components



3. Be Specific

Instead of:

The student struggles with reading comprehension.

Describe the skill:

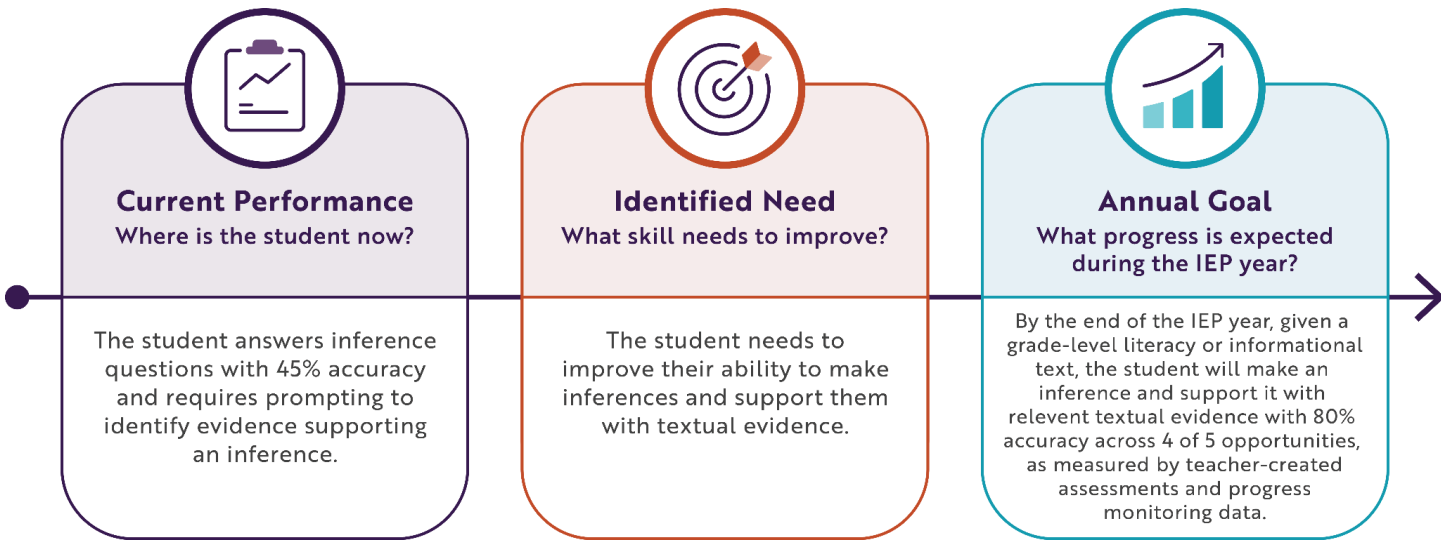
Based on a teacher-created grade-level reading comprehension probe administered in September 2026, the student independently identifies explicitly stated information in grade-level text but answers inference questions with 45% accuracy and requires prompting to identify supporting textual evidence. Student's difficulty making inferences and identifying supporting textual evidence impacts their ability to independently comprehend and respond to grade-level literary and informational text.

Specific information helps establish the student's current performance, identify the disability-related educational need, and provide a meaningful starting point for measuring progress.

4. Connect the PLAAFP to the IEP

The PLAAFP provides the foundation for individualized IEP development. Identified disability-related needs inform the development of measurable annual goals and, as appropriate, the services, supports, accommodations, and other components of the IEP.

Using the sample PLAAFP above, the identified need and current performance provide the foundation for developing a measurable annual goal.



5. Check Your Work

Before finalizing the PLAAFP, review the statement to ensure it provides a clear, measurable, and connected picture of the student's current performance and disability-related educational needs.

PLAAFP Quick Check

Can I find it?	Can I measure it?	Can I connect it?
Is the information needed to understand the student's present levels easy to identify?	Does the PLAAFP provide specific, current information about the student's performance?	Does the PLAAFP provide a clear foundation for individualized IEP development?
Look for: Data source/tool, current performance, strengths, disability-related needs, and impact.	Look for: Specific performance information, meaningful data, and a clear starting point for measuring progress.	Look for: Identified needs that inform annual goals and other individualized IEP components, as appropriate.