

## Annual Goals and Short-Term Objectives/Benchmarks Essential Elements

Questions to Ask	Breadth of Information Needed
Has an annual goal for each critical area of need identified in the PLAAFP been drafted?	How are the annual goals aligned with the critical areas of need identified in the PLAAFP?
Is a timeframe included? NOTE: The timeframe cannot exceed 12 months.	Is the timeframe using a measure, such as a number of weeks or a certain date for completion, that identifies the amount of time in the goal period?
Is a condition included? NOTE: The condition must be provided each time the progress toward the annual goal is measured.	How are the conditions aligned with the needed accommodations or supports outlined in the PLAAFP?
	How do the condition(s) in the goal align with the specified behavior (e.g., a graphic organizer for composition, a calculator for math problem solving, a list of steps for completing assignments)?
	How does the condition(s) specify in what context the behavior or skill will be expected to occur?
	How does the condition(s) identify the level of independence is expected to complete the skill or demonstrate the behavior?
Is a behavior included?	Describe how the behavior can be observed and measured.
	For academic goals, how is the behavior aligned or linked to the enrolled grade-level general curriculum (e.g., TEKS)? For functional goals, how is the behavior aligned with progress in the general curriculum and describes a functionally relevant replacement behavior?
Is a criterion included?	How does the criterion specify when mastery of the skill will be expected to occur?
	Describe how the criterion is measured in the same way as the baseline data in the PLAAFP.
	Describe the data sheet created to accurately measure the behavior repeatedly over time. Would two different people understand the goal and measure it the same way?
Does the annual goal contain short-term objectives/benchmarks? NOTE: Short-term objectives/benchmarks are only required for students taking the alternate state assessment.	How do the short-term objectives/benchmarks contain a timeframe, condition(s), behavior, and criterion?
	Are there at least two short-term objectives/benchmarks for each annual goal?
	How do the short-term objectives/benchmarks communicate the progress that is expected to occur to master the annual goal?

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