

IEP Collect: Proposal Report

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IEPs and IEP Collect

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are structured systems developed by parents, teachers, and academic administrators to support students with special needs. IEPs track students goal, progress and accommodations. IEPs entail a lot of documentation - much of which can fall into the responsibility of the teachers. This work, in addition to the normally expected work of a teacher, can be overwhelming.

IEP Collect is a tablet application to help teachers input this information. IEP Collect aims to make entering this data and keeping track of the needs, accommodation, and progress of students simpler. It has support for entering student accommodations, as well as goals.

Deliverables

To solve the above problems, we will aim to deliver:

- Digital mockup and/or wireframes
- A Website describing the project
- Usability testing report(s)
- Tablet application with visualization

Milestones

First milestone:

Research on IEPs, participatory design sessions with teachers, lightweight digital mockup and/or wireframes.

Second milestone:

Data collection for a single student, mockups and/or wireframes of full design complete.

Third milestone:

Fully implemented design including switching between multiple students, navigation, and all data entry, simple data visualization.

Success Criteria and Risks

We need to have an implemented app that assists in-classroom data collection. The app should support all the tasks that are considered within scope of the quarter. In order for us to know whether our project is truly successful we need to have testimonies from teachers that our app provides more utility than the current paper system.

The biggest risk of this project is not being able to find enough teachers to participate in our design process. Our plan relies on being able to meet with teachers for participatory design and usability testing sessions throughout the entire process. In order to address this we have been reaching out to find suitable people through multiple avenues, to try to counteract the possibility of a low response rate. Another major challenge of this project is to

try to accommodate a wide of a range of needs for students with varying physical and mental disabilities. Achieving true universality is nearly impossible due to the highly varied and thus unpredictable range of needs of students with disabilities. At this time we plan to create a solution that if it cannot be fully inclusive, will not be directly exclusive. We hope that we will be able to find general features to support a wide range of individuals, which would sacrifice specialized support for less common cases.