

Navigating IEPs & 504s

Individualized Education Plan vs 504 Plan

Aspect	Individual Education Plan (IEP)	504 Plan
Basic Description	A plan that provides special education services to support student growth on personalized goals and possibly specialized learning.	A plan that provides accommodations for students to access the general education curriculum in a GenEd classroom.
Governing Law	Individuals with Disability Acts (IDEA)	Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Overseeing Agency	U.S. Department of Education: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation	U.S. Department of Education: Office of Civil Rights
Ages	Birth - 21 years	Entire life
Eligibility	Children must qualify in one of the 13 disability categories. Disability MUST impact access to education.	Child must have a disability (that does not have to be under the disability categories) that impacts access to general education curriculum.
Evaluation	Initial evaluation includes standard assessment tools. Re-evaluation is completed every 3 years.	No specific evaluation is included in the law. The law states that a periodic evaluation must be completed.
Plan Form	Requires a written plan.	May not include a written plan- very specific to each district.
Parent Involvement	Parents are required to be part of the IEP team.	Parent permission must be obtained prior to evaluation, but a 504 Plan can be developed without parent participation.
Annual Review	Review of goals, progress and services must be completed once a year.	Does not require an annual review, but common practice includes an annual review.

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Goals	Must include written goals, which are measurable and reviewed annually.	Does not include specific goals or progress monitoring.
Accommodations	Accommodations may be included to give students access to the curriculum.	Bulk of the plan, provides student access to the general education curriculum.
Modifications	The student may access a completely modified curriculum.	The student may have modified assignments, but are still accessing non-modified curriculum
Services	The student qualifies for specific services with specialists like an SLP, PT, OT or Special Education teacher.	May include direct services.
College	An IEP does not follow a student in college. Many students who previously utilized an IEP may switch to a 504.	Section 504 allows for accommodations for the student in college.
Transition Plans	IEPs require transition planning for students aged 16 and older to prepare for post-secondary education, employment and independent living.	504 plans do not mandate specific transition planning, although schools often consider transition needs.
Procedural Safeguards	IDEA includes specific procedural safeguards which should be provided to parents by IEP team.	Section 504 does not have specific procedural safeguards outlined for parents or students
Recourse	Specific due process and mediation procedures can be utilized by parents.	Parents have a right to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights.

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State Special Education Departments

Follow these links to access specific state special education departments.

Alabama: alabamaachieves.org/special-education/

Alaska: education.alaska.gov/sped

Arizona: azed.gov/special-education

Arkansas: dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/special-education/

California: cde.ca.gov/sp/se/

Colorado: www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped

Connecticut: portal.ct.gov/SDE/Services/Special-Education

Delaware: doe.k12.de.us/domain/78

Florida: fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/

Georgia: gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services

Hawaii:

hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/SpecializedPrograms/SpecialEducation/

Idaho: sde.idaho.gov/sped/

Illinois: isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Programs.aspx

Indiana: in.gov/doe/students/special-education/

Iowa: educateiowa.gov/pk-12/special-education/parent-information

Kansas: ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special_Education

Kentucky: education.ky.gov/specialed/

Louisiana: louisianabelieves.com

Maine: maine.gov/doe/learning/specialed

Maryland: marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Special-Education/index.aspx

Massachusetts: doe.mass.edu/sped/

Michigan: michigan.gov/mde/services/special-education

Minnesota: education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/sped/

Mississippi: mdek12.org/OSE

Missouri: dese.mo.gov/special-education

Montana: opi.mt.gov/Educators/School-Climate-Student-Wellness/Special-Education

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State Special Education Departments

Follow these links to access specific state special education departments.

Nebraska: education.ne.gov/sped/

Nevada: doe.nv.gov/Inclusive_Education/

New Hampshire: education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-learner-support/bureau-of-student-support

New Jersey: nj.gov/education/specialed/

New Mexico: swebnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/special-education/

New York: p12.nysed.gov/specialed/

North Carolina: dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children

North Dakota: nd.gov/dpi/education-programs/special-education

Ohio: education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education

Oklahoma: sde.ok.gov/special-education

Oregon: oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/SpecialEducation

Pennsylvania: education.pa.gov/K-12/Special%20Education

Rhode Island: ride.ri.gov/students-families/special-education

South Carolina: ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/

South Dakota: doe.sd.gov/sped/

Tennessee: tn.gov/education/students/student-supports-in-tn/special-education.html

Texas: tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education

Utah: schools.utah.gov/specialeducation

Vermont: education.vermont.gov/student-support/vermont-special-education

Virginia: doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/special-education

Washington: k12.wa.us/student-success/special-education

West Virginia: wvde.us/special-education/

Wisconsin: dpi.wi.gov/sped

Wyoming: edu.wyoming.gov/for-district-leadership/special-programs/

United States: U.S. Department of Education - ed.gov