

	IEP	504
Basic Description	A blueprint or plan for a child's special education experience at school.	A blueprint or plan for how a child will have access to learning at school.
What It Does	<p>Provides individualized special education and related services to meet the unique needs of the child.</p> <p>These services are provided at no cost to parents.</p>	<p>Provides services and changes to the learning environment to meet the needs of the child as adequately as other students.</p> <p>As with IEPs, a 504 plan is provided at no cost to parents.</p>
What Law Applies	<p>The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)</p> <p>This is a federal special education law for children with disabilities.</p>	<p>Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973</p> <p>This is a federal civil rights law to stop discrimination against people with disabilities.</p>
Who Is Eligible	<p>To get an IEP, there are two requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A child has one or more of the 13 specific disabilities listed in IDEA. Learning and attention issues may qualify. 2. The disability must affect the child's educational performance and/or ability to learn and benefit from the general education curriculum. 	<p>To get a 504 plan, there are two requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A child has any disability, which can include many learning or attention issues. 2. The disability must interfere with the child's ability to learn in a general education classroom. Section 504 has a broader definition of a disability than IDEA. That's why a child who doesn't qualify for an IEP might still be able to get a 504 plan.
Independent Educational Evaluation	<p>Parents can ask the school district to pay for an independent educational evaluation (IEE) by an outside expert. The district doesn't have to agree.</p> <p>Parents can always pay for an outside evaluation themselves, but the district may not give it much weight.</p>	<p>Doesn't allow parents to ask for an IEE. As with an IEP evaluation, parents can always pay for an outside evaluation themselves.</p>

<p>Who Creates the Program/Plan</p>	<p>There are strict legal requirements about who participates. An IEP is created by an IEP team that must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The child's parent● At least one of the child's general education teachers● At least one special education teacher● School psychologist or other specialist who can interpret evaluation results● A district representative with authority over special education services <p>With a few exceptions, the entire team must be present for IEP meetings.</p>	<p>The rules about who's on the 504 team are less specific than they are for an IEP.</p> <p>A 504 plan is created by a team of people who are familiar with the child and who understand the evaluation data and special services options. This might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The child's parent● General and special education teachers● The school principal
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<p>What's in the Program/Plan</p>	<p>The IEP sets learning goals for a child and describes the services the school will give her. It's a written document.</p> <p>Here are some of the most important things the IEP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The child's present levels of academic and functional performance—how she is currently doing in school ● Annual education goals for the child and how the school will track her progress ● The services the child will get—this may include special education, related, supplementary and extended school year services ● The timing of services—when they start, how often they occur and how long they last ● Any accommodations—changes to the child's learning environment ● Any modifications—changes to what the child is expected to learn or know ● How the child will participate in standardized tests ● How the child will be included in general education classes and school activities 	<p>There is no standard 504 plan. Unlike an IEP, a 504 plan doesn't <i>have</i> to be a written document.</p> <p>A 504 plan generally includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Specific accommodations, supports or services for the child ● Names of who will provide each service ● Name of the person responsible for ensuring the plan is implemented
<p>Parent Notice</p>	<p>When the school wants to change a child's services or placement, it has to tell parents in writing <i>before</i> the change. This is called prior written notice. Notice is also required for any IEP meetings and evaluations.</p> <p>Parents also have "stay put" rights to keep services in place while there's a dispute.</p>	<p>The school must notify parents about evaluation or a "significant change" in placement. Notice doesn't have to be in writing, but most schools do so anyway.</p>
<p>Parent Consent</p>	<p>A parent must consent in writing for the school to evaluate a child. Parents must also consent in writing before the school can provide services in an IEP.</p>	<p>A parent's consent is required for the school district to evaluate a child.</p>

<p>How Often It's Reviewed and Revised</p>	<p>The IEP team must review the IEP at least once a year.</p> <p>The student must be reevaluated every three years to determine whether services are still needed.</p>	<p>The rules vary by state. Generally, a 504 plan is reviewed each year and a reevaluation is done every three years or when needed.</p>
<p>How to Resolve Disputes</p>	<p>IDEA gives parents several specific ways to resolve disputes (usually in this order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mediation ● Due process complaint ● Resolution session ● Civil lawsuit ● State complaint ● Lawsuit 	<p>Section 504 gives parents several options for resolving disagreements with the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mediation ● Alternative dispute resolution ● Impartial hearing ● Complaint to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) ● Lawsuit
<p>Funding/Costs</p>	<p>Students receive these services at no charge.</p> <p>States receive additional funding for eligible students.</p>	<p>Students receive these services at no charge.</p> <p>States do not receive extra funding for eligible students. But the federal government can take funding away from programs (including schools) that don't comply.</p> <p>IDEA funds can't be used to serve students with 504 plans.</p>

"The Difference Between IEPs and 504 Plans." *Understood.org*. Ed. Lee M.I. Andrew. N.p., 27 June 2014. Web. 10 Aug. 2016.