



Individualized Education Plan (IEP) & 504 Plan

IEP

- An IEP is an Individualized Education Plan for a child who qualifies for Special Education.
- Special Education and related services are provided that are specific to the student's needs at no cost to the student's family.
- IDEA – The Individual's with Disabilities Education Act is the federal law that requires students who qualify for an IEP to receive Special Education.
- To be eligible for an IEP, the student must have one or more of 13 qualifying disabilities identified within IDEA, and the disability impacts the student's academic performance or ability to learn in the typical education setting.
- Written parental consent is required for evaluation and implementation.
- An IEP must be updated annually and reevaluation must happen every three years.
- By law, an IEP team must include the parent, Special Education teacher, general education teacher(s), school psychologist or a specialist who can interpret the results, and a district representative such as a principal. The student can also be part of the meeting.
- An IEP must include a Present Level of Performance, annual education goals, the services that will be provided, how much time is designated for each service, any accommodations, any modifications, how the student will participate in standardized testing, and how the student will participate in general education and other school activities.

504 Plan

- A 504 Plan is for a child who does not qualify for Special Education services but has a disability that interferes with one or more basic life activities.
- A student on a 504 Plan can receive services or changes in their learning environment to thrive in the general education setting at no cost to the student's family.
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is the federal civil rights law that protects people who have a disability from discrimination.
- A student can qualify for a 504 Plan with any disability that interferes in the child's ability to learn in the general education setting.
- Parental consent is required for evaluation, but it does not have to be in writing.
- Updates to each plan vary by state however typically updated annually. Reevaluation is done when needed and it is often done every three years.
- The 504 Plan teams are less specific than an IEP - usually includes a parent, regular education teacher, and principal. It can also include others such as the student, a guidance counselor, Special Education teacher, or school psychologist.
- 504 Plans don't have to be in writing, but they typically are. A 504 Plan typically includes any modifications, adaptations, or support needed, and who is responsible for implementation.

The Differences Between IEP and 504 Plans Retrieved From: <https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/504-plan/the-difference-between-ieps-and-504-plans>