

## What is the difference between an IEP and a 504 Plan?

<b>IEP</b>	<b>504 Plan</b>
IDEA	Rehabilitation Act of 1973/ADA
Meets unique needs of the individual student with specific educational services (accommodations & modifications)	Protects students with disabilities from discrimination by leveling the playing field with reasonable accommodations
Special Education Environment	General Education Environment
Available for school-aged children (3-21)	Available for individuals at any age
Requires a comprehensive evaluation to determine eligibility	Requires a medical diagnosis & data to determine substantial learning limitations

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## Section 504



## Information Guide

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# What is Section 504?

Section 504 is a federal law that originates from the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and is currently part of the Americans with Disabilities Act (2009). Section 504 prohibits discrimination against persons who have a disability.

## Who is Eligible?

**In order to be considered for 504 eligibility, a student must:**

- Have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- Have a record of such an impairment; or
- Be regarded as having such an impairment

Examples of Major Life Activities: walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, **learning**, performing manual tasks, caring for oneself, working, sitting, standing, lifting, reading

A diagnosis of a disability does **not** automatically qualify a student for eligibility under Section 504. Teachers or parents who feel a student may meet the criteria for Section 504 eligibility may request a meeting.

## 504 Committee Members

- Guidance Counselor/ 504 Coordinator
- Principal
- School Nurse
- Parent(s)
- Additional support services (Basic Skills Instructor, Therapist-Occupational, Physical, Psychologist)

## How can a 504 Plan help my child in school?

504 Plans help to “*level the playing field*” within education by providing **reasonable accommodations** within the school setting.

## Information used to determine 504 eligibility

- Medical or psychological documentation of the disability
- Educational records, grades, observations, and other forms of data
- Any other information that helps to give a full picture of the student

## Examples of 504 Accommodations

- Preferential seating
- Extended time on tests and assignments
- Use of an FM system
- Repeat/re-clarify directions
- Receive assistance from a shared paraprofessional
- State Testing  
Accommodations: small group with extended time
- Provide non-verbal cues to encourage focus
- Provide small group instruction, when possible

## What happens if my child is found to be eligible for a 504 Plan?

A 504 Plan will be created by the 504 Coordinator, stating the child’s diagnosis, evidence of how the disability affects his/her ability to learn, and the reasonable accommodations that will be provided to the student in school. This document will be reviewed annually to ensure that the accommodations still met the needs of the child.