

The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990

Passed by Congress in 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is the nation's first comprehensive civil rights law addressing the needs of people with disabilities, prohibiting discrimination in employment, public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

IDEA

The Individual with Disabilities Education Act

In 1990, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) replaced the Education of the Handicapped Act (P.L. 94-142 and P.L. 99-457). IDEA (P.L. 105-17) states that children with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and that each child's education will be planned and monitored with an individualized education program or an individualized family service plan.

Section 612 of IDEA states:

to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children, who are not disabled, and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 1990)

What is an IEP?

- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written statement of the educational program designed to meet a child's individual needs. Every child who receives special education services must have an IEP.
- The IEP has two general purposes:
 - (1) to set reasonable learning goals for your child; and
 - (2) to state the services that the school district will provide for your child

What is a 504?

Section 504 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Section 504 ensures that the child with a disability has equal **access** to an education. The child may receive accommodations and modifications.

Unlike the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#), Section 504 does not require the school to provide an individualized educational program (IEP) that is designed to meet the child's unique needs and provides the child with educational benefit. Under Section 504, fewer procedural safeguards are available to children with disabilities and their parents than under IDEA.

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