

Aspect	Public Schools (K–12)	Independent Schools	College / Postsecondary
Governing Law	IDEA, Section 504, ADA.	Dependent on Federal and state funding. Most follow ADA.	Section 504, ADA.
Purpose	Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to ensure success.	Equal access to programs and facilities.	Equal access to programs and facilities.
Identification	School identified and evaluated.	Parents often disclose during the admissions process.	Students must self-identify, provide documentation, and communicate with professors.
Plan / Document	Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.	School-dependent. Ranges from personalized learning to 504 Plan.	Accommodation plan through Disability Services Office.
Services / Supports	Specialized instruction, modifications, and accommodations.	Can range from specialized instruction to reasonable accommodations only.	Reasonable accommodations only. No curriculum modifications.
Parent Involvement	An integral part of the decision-making team at meetings.	An integral part of the decision-making team when students are not meeting benchmarks.	Limited. Parents cannot access their child's student records without their consent (FERPA).
Documentation	School-provided evaluations.	Families must provide recent documentation and manage re-evaluations.	Students must provide recent, professional documentation.
Responsibility for Implementation	Teachers and school staff must implement IEP / 504.	Teachers and school staff must implement school-specific plans.	Professors provide approved accommodations, not academic modifications.
Support Examples	Modified assignments, extended time, small-group instruction.	Extended time on tests, note-taking assistance, assistive technology, tutoring, and reduced course load.	Extended time on tests, note-taking assistance, and assistive technology.
Focus	Success and access.	Success and opportunity.	Access and opportunity.