



Special Education vs. Section 504

	Special Education Individualized Education Plan (IEP)	Section 504 Section 504 Plan
Type of Law	Special Education Individuals With Disabilities (IDEA)	Civil Rights Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Department	Department of Education	Office for Civil Rights
Requirements for Eligibility	Has a disability that: a) meets criteria under IDEA, b) significantly impacts educational performance, and c) requires specialized services	Has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities
What is Typically Included?	Specially designed instruction, accommodations, modifications, and related services	Accommodations and modifications
Age Limits	IEP offered through 12th grade or until age 21 when required	No age limits with a 504 Plan
Where is the Plan Used?	Educationally, through the 12th grade Does not transfer to college	School, work, and college Eligibility and plan creation occurs at each institution
Discipline	A Manifestation Determination meeting may be necessary to determine if the offense is a manifestation of the disability, upon suspension greater than 10 days Services are required during long-term suspension	A Manifestation Determination meeting may be necessary to determine if the offense is a manifestation of the disability, upon suspension greater than 10 days A reevaluation may be required