# IEP vs 504
# Understanding The Differences

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| **Who** | IEP: An individual, aged 3-21;<br>• who has been identified as qualifying under one of 14 disability categories; AND<br>• whose disability affects their ability to access and benefit from the general education curriculum. | 504: An individual of any age, who;<br>• has a physical or mental impairment;<br>• has a record of impairment but is no longer disabled; OR<br>• is regarded as having an impairment<br>...that substantially limits a major life activity |
| **What** | IEP: A plan for how a student with a disability or other impairment will be provided;<br>• special education, AND/OR<br>• related services<br>...to ensure the child can make MEANINGFUL PROGRESS towards the general education curriculum. | 504: A plan for how a student with a disability or other impairment will be provided;<br>• regular OR special education, AND/OR<br>• related aids and services<br>...to ensure the child has the same ACCESS to the learning environment as non-impaired peers |
| **When** | IEP: Evaluations;<br>• Completed within 60 calendar days of signed consent for evaluation<br>• Reviewed at least once every 3 years<br>Plans:<br>• Completed within 30 calendar days of evaluation<br>• Reviewed by the team at least once per calendar year | 504;<br>Evaluations:<br>• Reviewed "periodically"<br>Plans:<br>• Reviewed "periodically" and prior to any sign |
| **Where** | IEP:<br>• All public school districts and chartered public schools<br>• Some private schools<br>• Includes academic AND nonacademic/extracurricular activities | 504:<br>• All public school districts and chartered public schools<br>• Any other educational institution receiving Federal funding or assistance<br>• Any organization providing education, healthcare, housing, social services, or parks/recreation |
| **Why** | IEP:<br>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)<br>• Federal funding law ensuring states meet the needs of qualifying students | 504:<br>Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973<br>• Federal civil rights antidiscrimination law |
| **How** | IEP:<br>Teams must determine:<br>• If a student meets the definition of having a disability under one of 14 categories<br>• What supports and services are required<br>If a student does not qualify under IDEA, teams must consider if they have a disability under Section 504 | 504:<br>Teams must determine:<br>• If a student qualifies for 504 protection only; OR<br>• If a student qualifies for 504 protections AND services |