



IEP vs 504 PLAN

Understanding the Similarities and Differences



IEP

- May include specialized instruction, related services, accommodations, modifications, and other supports
- Requires an IDEA-eligible disability AND a need for specially designed instruction
- Governed by IDEA
- Includes measurable annual goals and progress monitoring
- Developed by an IEP team, including the parent/guardian
- Reviewed at least annually; reevaluation generally occurs at least every 3 years
- Includes specific IDEA procedural safeguards

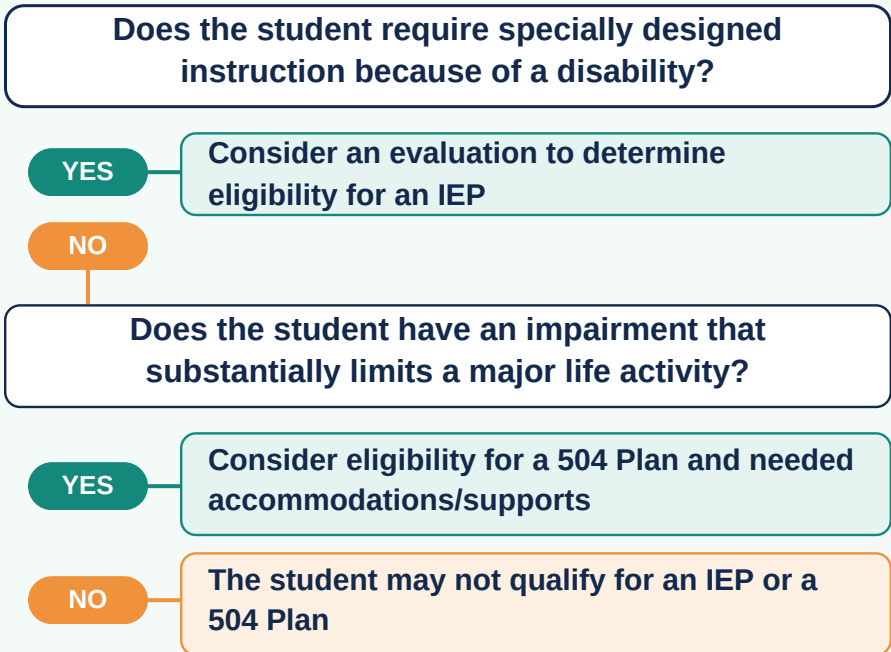
504 PLAN

- May include accommodations and other supports needed for equal access
- Requires a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities
- Governed by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Does NOT require measurable annual goals as seen in an IEP
- Determined by a team knowledgeable about the student and their needs
- Reviewed periodically to determine whether needs or supports have changed
- Includes Section 504 procedural safeguards

WHAT THEY HAVE IN COMMON

- Both are individualized based on the student's disability-related needs.
- Both may provide accommodations and supports that help students access their education.
- Both consider multiple sources of information when making decisions.
- Both provide legal protections for students with disabilities and procedural protections for families.

ELIGIBILITY PATHWAY



IMPORTANT REMINDER



A medical diagnosis does not automatically qualify a student for an IEP or 504 Plan. No single piece of data tells the whole story. Eligibility decisions consider multiple sources of information and the individual student's educational needs. Every child has a unique learning profile, and a disability does not define their potential.

