

IEP & 504

Similarities



Support services are provided at no cost to parents in public schools.

Parents can request changes to a plan at any time.



Parents, other caregivers, the school, or healthcare providers may refer the child for an evaluation.



If the school requires an assessment before offering services or accommodations, the school needs to pay for the assessment.



Tips



Psychologists and educational consultants can participate in meetings. If you prefer Spanish, request that the school provide an interpreter.

Be sure to ask how the school will monitor the progress of your child.



504 plans do not need to be written but you can request copies and updates.

IEP is available through twelfth grade.



An IEP may be appropriate if the child has a qualifying IDEA disability in addition to ADHD, such as autism spectrum disorder or a learning disorder, has trouble learning and mastering the content, and needs different learning goals and specialized instruction.



When Thinking about IEP or 504



A 504 plan may be appropriate if the child has trouble following instructions, completing assignments, controlling behavior, etc., but can learn and master the same content as the rest of the class, when adjustments are made to the setting, instructions, tasks, or behavior expectations.

Process

varies by state



For an IEP, schools must respond to a request for an evaluation within 10 working days. If denied, the parents may submit an appeal.

With the parents' consent, the IEP evaluation must be completed by the school district and the IEP meeting scheduled within 60 days. Schools must notify parents if additional time is needed.

The IEP is developed within 30 days. Schools review and revise students' IEP annually. A complete reevaluation needs to be done every three years.

A 504 plan has no timeline but should be in place within a reasonable period. It is reviewed and updated at least annually.

