

	IDEA	Section 504	ADA
Requirements in the Law	Provides a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment.	Requires any agency, school or institution receiving federal financial assistance to provide persons with disabilities to the greatest extent possible, an opportunity to be fully integrated into the mainstream.	Extends coverage of section 504 to employment, public and private educational institutions, transportation providers and telecommunications regardless of presence of any federal funding.
Definitions in the law	Specific disability categories are defined in the law: covers students with educational disabilities that require special services from specially trained teachers. Not all students with disabilities are eligible	Defines persons with disabilities who: have a physical or mental impairment which limits one or more major life activities: have a record of such impairment: or are regarded as having an impairment	Definition of disability essentially same as Section 504 and extends coverage to persons without disabilities who may be related to or associated with a person with a disability: Includes HIV status, contagious and non-contagious diseases
Who is covered	Covers students with educational disabilities that require special education services ages 3-21 or until graduation	Protects all persons with a disability from discrimination in educational setting based solely one disability	Protects all persons with a disability from discrimination in educational setting based solely one disability
Services provided	Offers educational services that are remedial in addition to services available to all mainstream students (i.e., PA, Art, field trips)	Eliminates barriers that would prevent a student from full participation in programs/services offered to the general school population	Eliminates barriers that would prevent a student from full participation in programs/services offered to the general school population
Funding	Schools receive federal funding to provide remedial services	Requires that schools not discriminate based on student's disability and must provide appropriate accommodations, but schools receive no additional financial support to provide support services or auxiliary aids.	Requires that schools not discriminate based on student's disability and must provide appropriate accommodations, but schools receive no additional financial support to provide support services or auxiliary aids.
Evaluation/Documentation	School district is responsible for identifying and evaluating students with disabilities.	Same for elementary and secondary schools Same for students in college	Students are responsible and must self identify as having a disability and must provide adequate documentation of disability.
	Evaluations are the responsibility of the school and are performed at no expense to the parent.	Same for elementary and secondary schools Same for students in college	Evaluations/documentation of disability is the student's responsibility and expense.
	Parents must consent to evaluations and placement decisions	Same for elementary school and secondary schools Same for students in college	Student has responsibility for advocacy, negotiating accommodations plan.
IEP/Accommodations	Individual Education Plan (IEP) developed with parents, teachers, and other specialists involved.	504 Plan developed with parents, teachers, school personnel involved (for elementary/secondary students) Same for college/postsecondary	Accommodation plan developed with student, Disability Service Coordinator on campus
Classroom Placement	Placement must be in the least restrictive environment; may be special classrooms, resource, or regular classroom. (Elementary and secondary students)	Placement is in regular classroom with support services to eliminate barriers to the educational experience. (Elementary, secondary, college students)	All courses mainstream with accommodations provided to students who qualify under ADA.