

## What is the difference between and Individual Education Plan (IEP) and a 504 plan?

<b>School Service Plans for Students with Psychiatric Disorders</b>		
<b>School Service Plans for Students with Psychiatric Disorders</b>	<b>504 Plan</b>	<b>Individualized Educational Program (IEP)</b>
Purpose	To ensure that all students have equal opportunity to learn, even if they have a disability; focus is student's opportunities as compared to other students in that school	To remediate symptoms of a student's disability; student's unique needs are the focus
Criteria to receive this plan	Student has an impairment that limits a major life activity, but may not require specialized instruction	Student has a disability which interferes with educational progress, and which requires specialized instruction
Who develops this plan	Teacher, administrator (often the school's designated "504 coordinator," school counselor and usually parent, student) (if appropriate)	Educational team, including staff certified in special education; may include evaluations by school psychologist, social worker; parent may bring friends, advocates, own evaluators to be part of team
What is usually provided	Changes within classroom or school building to enable student to complete curriculum expectations	Changes within classroom setting(s) to provide student different instruction, and may substantially alter what is required of student
Example of what is provided	Student is allowed more time to complete tests; Student may be provided device to hear better	Student may leave regular language arts class and receive specialized reading program; student may be exempted from course requirements
Which staff deliver services	Usually regular education staff	Staff with specialized training (special education teachers, speech therapists, occupational therapists, etc.)
Where the student receives services	Regular classroom with regular peers "to the maximum extent appropriate"	Wide ranging, from regular education classrooms (inclusion) to pullout for special education classrooms, to offsite day school programs, to 24 hr/day residential schools
Review of the plan	Plan reviewed at least every year	At least every year plan is reviewed, and every 3 yrs the student is retested to see if still qualifies
Disciplinary actions	If "manifestation hearing" indicates student's impairment or disability caused misbehavior, then student cannot be suspended/expelled; school is not required to provide free, appropriate education for suspended or expelled students	If "manifestation hearing" indicates student's disability caused misbehavior, then student cannot be suspended/expelled; if student is suspended or expelled, school must still provide free, appropriate education
Appeal recourses	School may alter 504 Plan immediately should circumstances indicate need; "notice" may be provided verbally; family may appeal to the Office for Civil Rights if perceive school is discriminating against child because of a disability	School must provide "prior written notice" before changes in educational plan or placement are made; family may appeal decisions or plan to local then State departments of education