



IDEA vs Section 504

What are they? Laws that provide special education, other services, and appropriate accommodations for eligible children with disabilities in the United States.

What is the legal difference?

IDEA

A funding statute requiring all states to follow its conditions for funding special education

Section 504

A civil rights statute requiring all recipients of federal funds to provide non-discriminatory services, including reasonable accommodations

Where does it apply?

All state and local public school districts.



All federally funded programs, which includes all public schools.

Who does it cover?

13

categories of disabilities. Children must be eligible under at least one category



Any

child with an identified physical or mental disability

What about ADHD?

Falls under the "other health impairment" category. Kids with ADHD in some cases are eligible under the "emotional disorder" and "learning disability" categories.

If ADHD substantially limits a major life activity, such as learning, then a child qualifies for services.

What makes your child eligible?

- Meet criteria for specific category of disabilities
- Disability impairs educational performance
- Your child requires special education intervention



- Has a documented disability
- Disability limits a major life activity

Will your child receive special education services?

Yes. To qualify your child must need some form of special education intervention.



Not necessarily. Your child may receive both special education and related services, or only the related services such as preferential seating and movement breaks.

How does your child start receiving services?



The school conducts a special education evaluation and develops an IEP (individualized education plan)

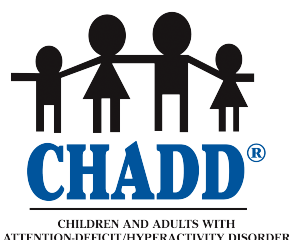
The school conducts an evaluation for 504 services and creates a 504 Plan listing all the accommodations your child will receive.



Anything else I should know?

No cost to parents.

The school needs parent permission to evaluate your child



4601 Presidents Drive, Suite 300
Lanham, MD 20706
800-233-4050
www.chadd.org/nrc