

Comparison of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), & The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

	IDEA (K-12)	Section 504 (K-12/College)	ADA (College/Empl)
Requirements in the Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provides a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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 in to the mainstream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extends coverage of section 504 to employment, public & private education institutions, transportation providers & telecommunications, regardless of presence of any federal funding.
Definitions in the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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. 	<p>Defines persons with disabilities who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Have a physical or mental impairment which limits one or more major life activities; ➤ Have a record of such an impairment; or ➤ Are regarded as having an impairment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Definitions of disability essentially same as Section 504 & extends coverage to persons without disabilities who may be related to or associated with a person with a disability; Includes HIV status, contagious & non-contagious diseases.
Who is covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Covers students with educational disabilities that require special educational service ages 3-21 or until graduation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protects all persons with a disability from discrimination in educational setting based solely on disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protects all persons with a disability from discrimination in educational setting based solely on disability.
Services provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Offers educational services that are remedial in addition to services available to all mainstream students (i.e., PE, Art, field trips). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Eliminates barriers that would prevent a student from full participation in programs/services offered to the general school population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Eliminates barriers that would prevent a student from full participation in programs/services offered to the general school population.

	IDEA (K-12)	Section 504 (K-12/College)	ADA (College/Empl)
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Schools receive federal funding to provide remedial services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Requires that schools not discriminate based on student's disability & must provide appropriate accommodations, but schools receive no additional financial support to provide support services or auxiliary aids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Requires that schools not discriminate based on student's disability & must provide appropriate accommodations, but schools receive no additional financial support to provide support services or auxiliary aids.
Evaluation/ Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School district is responsible for identifying & evaluating students with disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>K-12</u>: School district is responsible for identifying & evaluating students with disabilities. ➤ <u>College</u>: Students must self-identify as having a disability & must provide documentation of disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students must self-identify as having a disability & must provide documentation of disability.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evaluations are the responsibility of the school & are performed at no expense to student/parent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>K-12</u>: Evaluations are the responsibility of the school & are performed at no expense to student/parent. ➤ <u>College</u>: Evaluations/ documentation of disability are student's responsibility & expense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evaluations/documentation of disability are student's responsibility & expense.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parents must consent to evaluations & placement decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>K-12</u>: Parents must consent to evaluations & placement decisions. ➤ <u>College</u>: Student has responsibility for advocacy, negotiating accommodations plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student has responsibility for advocacy, negotiating accommodations plan.
IEP/ Accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Individual Education Plan (IEP) developed with parents, teachers & other specialists involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 504 Plan developed with parents, teachers, school personnel involved (for elementary/secondary students). ➤ Accommodation plan developed with college student, Disability Services Coordinator on campus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Accommodation plan developed with college student, Disability Services Coordinator on campus.
Classroom Placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Placement must be in the least restrictive environment; may be special classrooms, resource, or regular classroom. (Elementary & secondary students) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Placement is in regular classroom with support services to eliminate barriers to the educational experience. (Elementary, secondary, & college students). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All courses are mainstreamed with accommodations provided to students who qualify under ADA.