

## 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)
<b>Requirements in the Law</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provides a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Extends coverage of section 504 to employment, public &amp; private education institutions, transportation providers &amp; telecommunications, regardless of presence of any federal funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Definitions in the law</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Specific disability categories are defined in the law; covers students with educational disabilities that require special services from specially trained teachers.</li> <li>➤ Not all students with disabilities are eligible.</li> </ul>	<p>Defines persons with disabilities who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Have a physical or mental impairment which limits one or more major life activities;</li> <li>➤ Have a record of such an impairment; or</li> <li>➤ Are regarded as having an impairment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Definitions of disability essentially same as Section 504 &amp; extends coverage to persons without disabilities who may be related to or associated with a person with a disability; Includes HIV status, contagious &amp; non-contagious diseases.</li> </ul>
<b>Who is covered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Covers students with educational disabilities that require special educational service ages 3-21 or until graduation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Protects all persons with a disability from discrimination in educational setting based solely on disability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Protects all persons with a disability from discrimination in educational setting based solely on disability.</li> </ul>
<b>Services provided</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offers educational services that are remedial in addition to services available to all mainstream students (i.e., PE, Art, field trips).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Eliminates barriers that would prevent a student from full participation in programs/services offered to the general school population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Eliminates barriers that would prevent a student from full participation in programs/services offered to the general school population.</li> </ul>

(OVER)

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