

QUICK COMPARISON: IEP VS. 504 PLAN

	IEP	504 PLAN
Legal Basis	IDEA	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Eligibility	Documented disability that affects educational performance	Disability that substantially limits a major life activity (<i>including speaking</i>)
Services Provided	Specialized instruction + related services (<i>e.g., speech therapy</i>)	Accommodations and modifications only—no special education services
Goals Required?	Yes—measurable annual goals + progress monitoring	No
Evaluation	Comprehensive evaluation by the school	School-based evaluation, generally less extensive
Team	Parents, teachers, school specialists, sometimes the child	School-based team, typically with parent input
Review Cycle	At least annually, reevaluation every 3 years	Periodic review
Best Fit For	Children needing speech therapy or other special education services	Children needing classroom accommodations but not therapy/special instruction



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