



White Pine Charter Schools

Understanding the differences between a Section 504 Plan and an Individual Education Plan (IEP) can be confusing. While they both serve the purpose of helping students get the additional help they need to be successful in the academic environment, there are some significant differences between the two.

	IEP	Section 504 Plan
Laws for Which They Fall Under	An IEP falls under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and is overseen by the Federal and State Department of Education.	A Section 504 Plan falls under the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This law addresses the civil rights of people with disabilities. The Federal Office of Civil Rights oversees it.
The Purpose	Provides specialized and individual instruction and other related services for children who fall within 13 eligibility categories* and need such instruction to progress in school.	Allows for any child with a disability and whose disability interferes with their ability to learn in the general education environment, to receive accommodations to support their ability to learn in the general education environment.
Eligibility	A student with a disability based on one or more of the 13 eligibility categories as defined by IDEA AND the disability impacts the student's academic performance in the general education environment.	A student who has a disability that substantially limits one or more basic life functions (i.e., learning, reading, communication, and thinking).
Who Is Involved in the Creation of Such a Document	Per IDEA requirements, the IEP team must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent or caregiver of the student ● At least one general education teacher ● A specialist who can interpret evaluation results ● A district representative with authority to make decisions that impact the district 	People who are familiar with the student, understand and can interpret the evaluation data, and can identify special services options.



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<p>What's Included in the Document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How the student is currently doing in school ● Annual Goals ● Description of services ● Timing of services (e.g., how many minutes per day, week, or month) ● Accommodations agreed upon by the IEP team. ● Modifications agreed upon by the IEP team. ● How the student will participate in standardized testing ● How the student will be included in general education classes and activities 	<p>No standardized form requirement. Generally includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accommodations or services for the student ● Who will be providing each service or accommodation ● Who is responsible for ensuring Section 504 Plan is followed
<p>How Often Reviewed</p>	<p>Eligibility is reviewed every 3 years, and the IEP is reviewed annually</p>	<p>-Eligibility is reviewed every 3 years. -Best practice is to have the Section 504 Plan reviewed annually, but it is not required by law.</p>

*The thirteen categories of eligibility per IDEA include:

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| 1. Autism | 8. Other Health Impairments |
| 2. Deaf-Blindness | 9. Speech Impairment |
| 3. Developmental Delay | 10. Language Impairment |
| 4. Emotional Disturbance | 11. Learning Disability |
| 5. Hearing Impairment | 12. Traumatic Brain Injury |
| 6. Intellectual Disability | 13. Visual Impairment |
| 7. Orthopedic Impairment | |

If you have further questions regarding the IEP or Section 504 Plan process, please contact our Special Education Coordinator, Adrienne Seamans, at seamansad@wpcscougars.org.