

Educating Students with Disabilities

The Process and Your Rights

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What is a Disability?

- Legal Definitions
 - IDEA
 - 13 categories of impairment
 - that “by reason thereof” require special education and related services
 - 504
 - Substantial limitation on a major life activity

FAPE

Free Appropriate Public Education

- Instruction must be ‘specially designed’ to meet a child with a disability’s **‘unique needs’** through an individualized education program reasonably calculated to enable a child to make **progress appropriate in light of the child’s circumstances.**

Initial Evaluation

- Initiation
- Scope
- Timing
- Independent Evaluation

The IEP Meeting

- Notice
- Preparation
- Interdisciplinary Team
- Parent's Role

What is in the IEP?

- Disability classification
- Present Levels of Performance
- Management Needs
- Specific Goals
- Programs and Services

Getting it Right

- Review and rewrite as needed
- Clarify Goals and Management Needs
- Right to reconvene

IEP Disagreements

- Parent Concerns
- Pendency / Stay Put
- Mediation
- Impartial hearing

What About Section 504?

- Anti-discrimination
- Broader than IDEA
- Examples