

Comparison of Section 504 with IDEA and ADA

Federal Law	Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Kind of law	Civil Rights Act	Educational Act	Civil Rights Act
Assessment Process	Not specified	Comprehensive formal evaluations by interdisciplinary team	Not specified
Ages of Eligibility	All ages	3-21 years of age	All ages
Eligibility Criteria	A physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, and the impairment need not adversely affect the student's educational performance.	Specific criteria for defined categories of disability, including mental retardation, hearing impairments (e.g., deafness), visual impairments (e.g., blindness), speech or language impairments, emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, specific learning disabilities, and other health impairments, and the disability must adversely affect the student's educational performance.	A physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, and the impairment need not adversely affect the student's educational performance.
Educational Services Provided	Regular education setting with reasonable accommodations	Specialized instruction, i.e., special education services, and related services.	Regular education setting with reasonable accommodations
Settings	Elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education and work	Elementary and secondary education	Elementary, secondary, and post- secondary education and work
Funding	No funding provided	Federal and State Funding	No Funding Provided

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