

Disability Rights

Here are three laws that ensure basic rights for persons with disabilities.

Section 504: Any program that receives federal money must give people with disabilities equal access and equal opportunity to:

- ✓ Jobs
- ✓ Services
- ✓ Buildings

IDEA: Public Schools must provide students with disabilities

- ✓ Free Education that is
 - ✓ Adapted to the person
 - ✓ In the least restrictive place
-

ADA: People with disabilities must have equal opportunity and equal access to

- ✓ Jobs
- ✓ Government Services
- ✓ Public Places
- ✓ Public Transportation

Comparison of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), and The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

	IDEA	Section 504	ADA
Requirements in the Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 into the main-stream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extends coverage of section 504 to employment, public and private educational institutions, transportation providers and telecommunications, regardless of presence of any federal funding.
Definitions in the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific disability categories are defined in the law; covers students with educational disabilities that require special services from specially trained teachers. Not all students with disabilities are eligible. 	<p>Defines persons with disabilities who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have a physical or mental impairment which limits one or more major life activities; have a record of such an impairment; or are regarded as having an impairment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of disability essentially same as Section 504 and extends coverage to persons without disabilities who may be related to or associated with a person with a disability; Includes HIV status, contagious and non-contagious diseases.
Who is covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers students with educational disabilities that require special education services ages 3-21 or until graduation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects all persons with a disability from discrimination in educational setting based solely on disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects all persons with a disability from discrimination in educational setting based solely on disability.
Services provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers educational services that are remedial in addition to services available to all mainstream students (ie, PE, Art, field trips) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates barriers that would prevent a student from full participation in programs/services offered to the general school population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates barriers that would prevent a student from full participation in programs/services offered to the general school population.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools receive federal funding to provide remedial services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires that schools not discriminate based on student's disability and must provide appropriate accommodations, but schools receive no additional financial support to provide support services or auxiliary aids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires that schools not discriminate based on student's disability and must provide appropriate accommodation's, but schools receive no additional financial support to provide support services or auxiliary aids.