

LIBERATED HANDS PARENT TOOLKIT



IEP VS. 504 PLAN PARENT GUIDE

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Part of the Liberated Hands Parent Toolkit Series

UNDERSTANDING IEPs & 504 PLANS

Understanding the difference between an IEP and a 504 Plan can help you make informed decisions for your child's education. While both provide support for students with disabilities, they serve different purposes.

An IEP provides specialized instruction and individualized services for students who qualify for special education.

A 504 Plan provides accommodations that help students access learning in the general education setting.

This toolkit will help you understand the differences, prepare for school meetings, and advocate with confidence for your child's needs.

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

Topic	IEP	504 Plan
Purpose	Specialized instruction &	Accommodations for equal access
Law	IDEA	Section 504
Eligibility	Needs special education	Disability substantially limits a
Instruction	Individualized instruction	General education with
Examples	Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT)	Extended time, seating, breaks, assistive tech

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ·Why is this recommendation being made?
- ·What evaluations were considered?
- ·What services or accommodations will my child receive?
- ·How will progress be measured?
- ·When will we review the plan?

MEETING NOTES

Date:

School:

Attendees:

Key Decisions

Questions:

REMEMBER

- An IEP provides specialized instruction.
- A 504 Plan provides accommodations.
- The right plan depends on your child's individual needs.
- Ask questions until you understand the recommendations.

YOU'VE GOT THIS

Every child is unique. Continue learning, asking questions, and advocating with confidence. One informed parent can make a lasting difference.

LOOKING FOR MORE SUPPORT?

If you found this toolkit helpful, there are more free resources available.

 Watch more videos:

Navigating Special Education Together

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 Follow Liberated Hands on social media.

"Helping Families Navigate Special Education with Confidence."

Did you find this guide helpful?

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