



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Fact Sheet

IDEA is...

A federal education law originally passed in 1975. IDEA requires schools to give special education and related services to kids with disabilities who need them. It covers kids from birth through high school.

IDEA protects people who...

Have one of the 13 disabilities listed in the law *and* need special education services to make progress in school. Not all kids with learning and attention issues get services.

Some of the issues covered

- Specific Learning Disability: This includes dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia
- Other Health Impairment: This includes ADHD.

IDEA requires public schools to...

- ✓ Find and evaluate kids with disabilities—at no cost to parents.
- ✓ Provide kids who qualify with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

IDEA services and supports

Schools must provide kids with a free and appropriate education (FAPE). That happens through an IEP with services and supports tailored to a child's unique needs. An IEP may include...

Specialized instruction, like multisensory reading instruction

Related services, like speech and occupational therapy

Accommodations, like extended time on tests or written class notes

Assistive technology, like audiobooks and recorders

IDEA gives parents rights, too

One is the right to participate in the evaluation and IEP process. Others are the right to prior written notice and to informed consent. And if parents disagree with the school, IDEA provides due process, a formal way to resolve special education disputes.