

Section 504 Plan

What is a section 504 plan (504 Plan)?

A child may be tested for a 504 plan if they are having a hard time in school due to a problem that gets in the way of learning. This may be a learning issue or a medical problem.

A student with a 504 plan will spend most of the day in with his or her regular class. If a child needs special education, they would most likely have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), not a 504 plan.

The 504 plan tells the school team and family how the child's needs will be met. The plan does this by taking away or changing those things that make it hard for the child to learn in the same way the other children do. This is called accommodation and may include:

- Having the child sit closer to the front of the class so it is easier to see, leaving the class to take needed medicine, or getting extra time tests, etc.
- Other services may include speech, physical or occupational therapy, or counseling.

Who can get a 504 plan?

The 504 plan tells us what a disability is in broad terms. This means more children can get a 504 plan than an IEP. The 504 plan says a person with a disability is someone who:

- Has a physical or mental challenge that makes learning harder for them. This includes things like reading, walking, or concentrating.
- Has a record of that problem from a provider.
- Has a long term problem.

How does a child get a 504 plan?

A child with learning issues or a medical condition is not automatically given a 504 plan. The school must do testing. This will tell them if the child's problem makes it hard for them to learn in the same way their peers do. The parent or school can start this process.

What's in a 504 plan?

A team of people from the school who know the child will help make the plan. The team may include:

- A teacher, the principal, or therapists.
- The parent or guardian and the child (depending on the child's age).

The 504 plan will have the help, support, or services the child qualifies for. It will also name the people who will provide these services. The plan will be looked at every year by the team to make sure the changes are helping.

Where can I get more information?

Understood.org. A good site about learning and attention issues. The site has a link where you can learn more about the IEPs and 504 plans (School & Learning ⇌ Special Services).

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.