

Hands & Voices, NM

Quarterly Newsletter

October 2023

What Are the Differences Between IEP and 504?

Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 Plan are terms that are thrown around frequently in the public education sector. As parents of children with hearing differences, you may hear these terms even more often as your children are moving through the education system. What are IEPs and 504 Plans, and what are the differences between them?

An IEP is an educational road map for children with disabilities. IEPs are required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IEPs are updated at least once a year, documenting goals and milestones for students based on their unique abilities. These plans are created by the child's team— their teachers, parents, and other support staff (e.g. speech pathologist or occupational therapist).

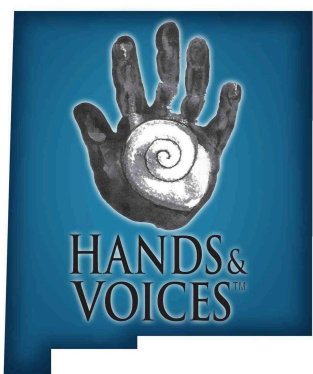
A 504 Plan comes from section 504 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states that any organization that receives federal money cannot discriminate against people with disabilities. Some examples of 504 accommodations are extra test time and preferential seating. These accommodations are also decided by the child's team.

A 504 Plan is geared toward ensuring a student has equitable access to their learning environment while an IEP focuses on educational benefits, and often includes direct services. 504 Plans are typically available to students with a wide range of disabilities, while IEPs are available to students with specific criteria (13 categories under IDEA).

Schools will evaluate students to determine if they qualify for an IEP or 504 Plan. To get an IEP, a student's disability must interfere with their ability to fully benefit from a general education curriculum. To get a 504, a student's disability must hinder their ability to learn in a general education classroom without accommodations.

If you're gearing up to discuss an IEP/504, or if your child's educational program is being reviewed, check out this resource from Hearing First to help feel empowered!

<https://www.hearingfirst.org/b/blog/posts/tips-for-starting-the-school-year>



**"What works
for your
child is what
makes the
choice
right!"**



Contact Information

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Upcoming Events

Happening in New Mexico:

Sept. 25: NMSD ASL Classes Start

Oct. 25: Clovis Zoo Family Event

Nov. 4: Presbyterian Ear Institute- Wine, Women, and Shoes

H&V National:

Oct. 10: OUR Project Kick-off

Nov. 9: Early Intervention: Advocacy in Early Years

Nov. 16: FL3- Training/Retaining Parent Volunteers

Jan. 25: FL3- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Access



For the most up-to-date information, follow us on social media!

Facebook: Hands and Voices New Mexico

Twitter: @HandVNM

Instagram:

@handvnm

Pinterest: @hvnm

Family Meet-ups

Hands & Voices New Mexico families have had two meet-ups in Albuquerque! On July 22nd families met at The Chill Zone for a cup of frozen yogurt and time together. They had another fun meet-up at a park in the NE ABQ region on September 30th! Keep an eye out for an event near you!



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H&V Leadership Conference



The Hands & Voices Leadership Conference took place from October 1-3 in Grand Rapids, MI. Families from 30 different states and Canada gathered to share information and network with one another! Presentations this year focused on the importance of children receiving a quality education and how we can better serve families that come from diverse cultural backgrounds. Join us at our next H&V gathering to hear more about it!

NMSD Family to Family

NMSD's Family to Family event took place on April 29th. This event gave families of D/HH children the opportunity to learn and play together across the state of New Mexico. Families gathered in Santa Fe, Roswell, and Farmington. Dr. Kimberly Sanzo from Hearing First provided an informational keynote presentation, and HVNM vice president, Rachel Gutierrez, hosted a breakout session reviewing the Guide By Your Side program.

