

Special Education & Related Services



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Each child is unique, especially when it comes to their experiences in education. Many children struggle to meet the demands of the traditional classroom setting and fall behind. Some of these challenges can be resolved by working with the student's teachers to provide the child with additional learning support. However, some children have unique cognitive, social, or behavioral concerns that require long term accommodations in order to reach their full potential.



Children with disabilities have a right to learn in the least restrictive environment (LRE) possible. This means that to the extent possible, children with disabilities should receive education alongside their peers and typically should not be removed from the general education classroom unless absolutely necessary. Children with learning or other disabilities have a right to the LRE and to continue to participate in learning and extra curricular activities among their fellow peers with and without disabilities. Parents can work together with the school to determine the best education plan for their child.

If parents or guardians have concerns about their child's functioning in school, they can request to the school administration that their child receive an evaluation to determine their unique needs. In Nevada, the school has 60 days to complete this evaluation from the day that the parent or guardian has requested it. Only parents or guardians can request this evaluation – teachers and school administrators cannot request this on behalf of the child.

Once a child has had an evaluation through their school, it is then determined whether or not the child qualifies for a 504 plan or an individualized education plan (IEP). Generally speaking, a 504 plan is developed for students that have a disability and need related accommodations in the school setting, but do not require special education services. An IEP is developed for students with a disability that require specialized education and resources to adequately meet curriculum requirements.

More information about specialized education and initiating a 504 or individualized education plan (IEP) can be found by visiting www.nvpep.org or calling 800-216-5188 for more information about how to get this process started

References:

Least Restrictive Environment. ASK Resource Center. (n.d.). <https://www.askresource.org/resources/least-restrictive-environment>

Schultz, S. (2022, December). *Differences between a 504 plan and an Individualized Education Program (IEP)*. National Education Association. <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/differences-between-504-plan-and-individualized-education-program-iep#:~:text=There%20are%20significant%20differences%20between,and%20progress%20in%20the%20curriculum>.