



■ Parent Resource Guide

Understanding IEPs and 504 Plans

What is an IEP? (Individualized Education Program)

- A legal document under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).
- Designed for students who qualify for special education services.
- Includes: Individual learning goals, specially designed instruction, related services (speech therapy, occupational therapy, etc.), and accommodations and modifications.
- ■ Think of an IEP as a personalized roadmap to help your child succeed in school.

What is a 504 Plan?

- Comes from Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- For students who do not need special education but need equal access to learning.
- Provides accommodations such as: extended test time, preferential seating, audiobooks or speech-to-text tools, reduced homework load.
- ■ Think of a 504 Plan as a set of tools that removes barriers so your child can learn alongside peers.

Key Differences Between IEPs and 504 Plans

Feature	IEP	504 Plan
Law	IDEA	Section 504
Eligibility	Disability impacts learning, requires special education	Disability affects major life activity (like reading, learning,
Services	Specialized instruction + accommodations	Accommodations only
Team	Parents, teachers, specialists, administrators	Parents + teachers (fewer staff involved)
Goals	Written, measurable goals	No formal goals required

How These Plans Help Kids with Dyslexia

- Extra time for reading and tests
- Access to assistive technology
- Small group or 1:1 instruction (IEP)
- Notes, outlines, or study guides provided
- Reduces stress and boosts confidence

Parent Action Steps

- Ask the school about evaluation if you suspect dyslexia or learning challenges
 - Keep a record of your child's struggles and strengths
 - Attend meetings and be an active voice in the plan
 - Celebrate your child's progress
- Every child deserves the right support. Whether through an IEP or 504 Plan, these tools can unlock potential and confidence in learning.

■ Contact **Read With Kourtni**

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