What are they? Laws that provide special education, other services, and appropriate accommodations for eligible children with disabilities in the United States.

**IDEA**
A funding statute requiring all states to follow its conditions for funding special education

**Section 504**
A civil rights statute requiring all recipients of federal funds to provide non-discriminatory services, including reasonable accommodations

**What is the legal difference?**
- *IDEA* is a civil rights statute requiring all recipients of federal funds to provide non-discriminatory services, including reasonable accommodations.
- *Section 504* is a funding statute requiring all states to follow its conditions for funding special education.

**Who does it cover?**
- IDEA covers children with disabilities.
- Section 504 covers any child with an identified physical or mental disability.

**What about ADHD?**
- Falls under the “other health impairment” category. Kids with ADHD in some cases are eligible under the “emotional disorder” and “learning disability” categories.
- If ADHD substantially limits a major life activity, such as learning, then a child qualifies for services.

**What makes your child eligible?**
- Has a documented disability
- Disability Limits a major life activity
- Meet criteria for specific category of disabilities
- Disability Impairs educational performance
- Your child requires special education intervention

**Will your child receive special education services?**
- Yes. To qualify your child must need some form of special education intervention.
- Not necessarily. Your child may receive both special education and related services, or only the related services such as preferential seating and movement breaks.

**How does your child start receiving services?**
- The school conducts a special education evaluation and develops an IEP (individualized education plan).
- The school conducts an evaluation for 504 services and creates a 504 Plan listing all the accommodations your child will receive.

**Anything else I should know?**
- No cost to parents.
- The school needs parent permission to evaluate your child.

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**National Resource Center on ADHD**
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