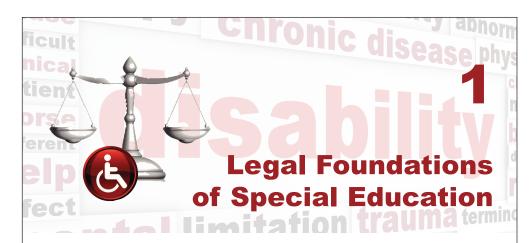
- Preview the PowerPoint file from this module. Enhance it as needed.
- Find additional videos to supplement those listed.
- Discuss the role of the paraprofessional as it relates to this topic.

 Preview the objectives. Briefly state why each is important.



Before Public Law 94-142, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (1975), the educational opportunities for students with disabilities were few. Many individuals with disabilities lived in state institutions which met only the essential needs of food, clothing, and shelter. Students were accommodated; they were not assessed nor educated. Inaccurate tests led to inappropriately labeling many children with disabilities, resulting in ineffective education as well. Providing appropriate education to students from diverse cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds was especially challenging, and many parents had no opportunity to be involved in making decisions about the education of their child. Children with disabilities had no resources to support them alongside non-disabled students within their neighborhood schools.

A number of laws have contributed to providing the range of educational services and opportunities available to students with disabilities today. It is important for paraprofessionals to be aware of these laws and their contributions as a part of the constantly changing landscape of special education.

Objectives

By the end of this module, the paraprofessional will be able to:

- 1. Identify key legislation and court decisions before 1973 relating to special education.
- 2. Describe federal laws related to providing education and related services to students with disabilities
- 3. Recognize people-first language and its importance.
- 4. Summarize recommendations for the transition from early intervention to preschool services.

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- 5. Locate school, school district, and state regulations, guidelines, and procedures.
- 6. Explore disability attitudes.

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Legislation and Court Decisions before 1973

During the 1950s and 1960s, the federal government began to develop and validate practices for children with disabilities and their families. These practices provided the foundation for early intervention and special education programs and services nationwide.



Learn about the common principles of special education laws: www.fcsn. org/parentguide/pgintro.html

1973 — Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

According to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR):

"Section 504 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Section 504 provides: 'No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States ... shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance'

"OCR enforces Section 504 in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from ED. Recipients of this Federal financial assistance include public school districts, institutions of higher education, and other state and local education agencies. The regulations implementing Section 504 in the context of educational institutions appear at 34 C.F.R. Part 104.

The Training of Professional Personnel Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-158) helped train leaders to educate children with mental retardation.

The Captioned Films Acts of 1958 (Public Law 85-905), the training provisions for teachers of students with mental retardation (Public Law 85-926), and 1961 (Public Law 87-715), which supported the production and distribution of accessible films.

The *Teachers of the Deaf Act* of 1961 (Public Law 87-276) trained instructional personnel for children who were deaf or hard of hearing.

Public Law 88-164 (1963) expanded previous specific training programs to include training across all disability areas.

In 1965, the *Elementary and Secondary Education*Act (Public Law 89-10) and the State Schools Act
(Public Law 89-313) provided states with direct grant
assistance to help educate children with disabilities.

The Handicapped Children's Early Education
Assistance Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-538) and
the Economic Opportunities Amendments of 1972
(Public Law 92-424) authorized support for exemplary
early childhood programs and increased Head Start
enrollment for young children with disabilities.

Landmark court decisions also advanced increased educational opportunities for children with disabilities. For example, the *Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens v. Commonwealth* (1971) and *Mills v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia* (1972) established the responsibility of states and localities to educate children with disabilities. Thus, the right of every child with a disability to be educated is grounded in the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Source: HISTORY: Twenty-Five Years of Progress in Educating Children with Disabilities Through IDEA, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs Preview the website in advance. Find an alternate resource if the link has changed.

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"The Section 504 regulations require a school district to provide a 'free appropriate public education' (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the school district's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. Under Section 504, FAPE consists of the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services designed to meet the student's individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met."





Directions: At the link below, find the answers to the questions listed. Write the answers in your own words.



http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html

Q. How does the OCR get involved in disability issues within a school district?

A.

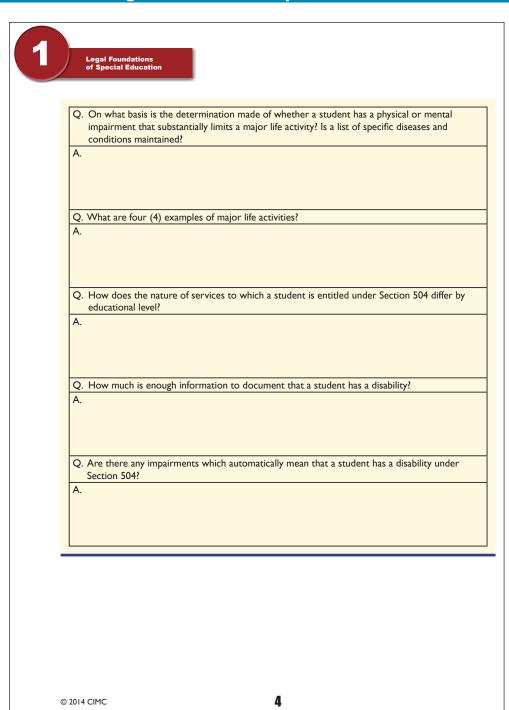
Preview the website

in advance. Find an alternate resource if the link has changed.

Q. What services are available for students with disabilities under Section 504?

Α.

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1974 — Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."



- Parents or eligible students can inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students can request that a school make corrections to records they believe to
 be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible
 student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to
 amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record
 explaining his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- · Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, directory information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents or eligible students about directory information and allow a reasonable amount of time to request the school not disclose directory information.

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Schools must notify parents or eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.



Learn more about FERPA by watching this video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=36mb8bu9fQo

Paraprofessionals must be cautious when it comes to all information about students. They must apply FERPA requirements in response to any request for such information.

1975 — Education for All Handicapped Children Act



In the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142), the Congress found that the special educational needs of children with disabilities were not being fully met. In response, the stated purpose of Public Law 94-142 (also referred to as EHA) was "to assure that all handicapped children have available to them...a free appropriate public education which emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs, to assure that the rights of handicapped children and their parents or guardians are protected, to assist states and localities to provide for the education of all handicapped children, and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate handicapped children."

Key provisions of the law included:

- Free appropriate public education (FAPE) for children with disabilities aged 3-21;
- An individualized education program (IEP) for each child;
- Education of children with disabilities alongside children without disabilities, known as the least restrictive environment (LRE);
- Testing and evaluation materials and procedures which are (1) not racially or culturally discriminatory, and (2) provided and administered in the child's native language or mode of communication;
- Involvement of parents and others;

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- Preview the video in advance. Find an alternate video if the link has changed. The duration of this video is 9:00.
- Discuss potential scenarios involving the paraprofessional and student information.



- A state plan that addresses personnel development, including in-service training of general and special educational instructional and support personnel;
- A state advisory panel to include teachers and parents or guardians of children with disabilities; and
- Due process rights and procedures.

The law also defined the contents of the individualized education program (IEP). The IEP must include: (1) a statement of each child's present levels of educational performance; (2) a statement of annual goals and short-term instructional objectives; (3) a statement of the specific educational services to be provided and the extent to which the child will be able to participate in regular educational programs; (4) the projected date for initiating such services and their anticipated duration; and (5) criteria and procedures for determining whether instructional objectives are being achieved.

7

 Preview the video in advance. Find an alternate video if the link has changed. The duration of this video is 10:01.



Learn more about Public Law 94-142 by watching this video: www.youtube. com/watch?v=qn0TDGzHq_4

1984, 1990, 1998, 2006 — Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act

In 1984, the Vocational Education Act was renamed the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act

(Public Law 98-524). Among its changes to the earlier legislation, the 1984 law sought to make vocational education programs accessible to "special populations," including individuals with disabilities. The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act Amendments of 1990 (Public Law 101-392) made several revisions to the 1984 act. Most set-asides for special populations were removed from the legislation, but the program remained focused on providing members of special populations with access to high-quality vocational education. These populations included disadvantaged and disabled students, limited English-proficient students, and students enrolled in programs to eliminate gender bias. The 2006 reauthorization renamed the legislation the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-270) to refer to career and technical education, rather than vocational and technical education.



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1986 — Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986

The Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986 reauthorized the EHA (described above). It also expanded upon Public Law 94-142 to include infants and toddlers with disabilities. The law provided for early intervention services for children from birth to age 2 who were (1) experiencing delays in cognitive development, physical development, language and speech development, psychosocial development, or self-help skills, or (2) who had a diagnosed physical or mental condition which had a high probability of resulting in developmental delay. The law defined early intervention services (EIS) as meeting the infant or toddler's developmental needs in one or more of the areas listed above. In addition, such services included:

- · Family training, counseling, and home visits;
- · Special instruction;
- · Speech pathology and audiology;
- Occupational and physical therapy;
- Psychological services;
- · Case management services;
- · Medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes;
- · Early identification, screening, and assessment services; and
- Health services necessary to enable the infant or toddler to benefit from the other early intervention services.

Under the law, each statewide system must include an individualized family service plan (IFSP) for each infant and toddler with disabilities, a public awareness program focusing on early identification of infants and toddlers with disabilities, and a comprehensive system of personnel development. The written IFSP must be developed by a multidisciplinary team that includes the parent or guardian and must be evaluated once each year. The contents of the written plan must include:

- the infant's or toddler's present levels of development (in the areas listed above), based on acceptable objective criteria;
- the family's strengths and needs relating to enhancing the development of the infant or toddler:
- the **major outcomes expected** to be achieved for the infant or toddler and the family; the criteria, procedures, and timelines used; and whether modifications or revisions to the outcomes or services are necessary;
- specific **early intervention services** necessary to meet the unique needs of the infant or toddler and the family; and
- the projected **dates** for initiating the services and their anticipated **duration**.



- Preview the video in advance. Find an alternate video if the link has changed. The duration of this video is 29:59.
- · Preview the website in advance. Find an alternate resource if the link has changed.

The IFSP must also include the steps to support the toddler's transition to the services available to the child under Public Law 94-142 (once the child reaches age 3).



Learn more about early infant assessment by watching this video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX4-jbvvPDo



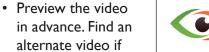
Learn about Oklahoma's early intervention program, SoonerStart: http://ok.gov/sde/soonerstart

1990 — **Americans with Disabilities Act**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, state and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. The ADA defines an individual with a disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered.

"The ADA is one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life—to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in state and local government programs and services. Modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964—which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin—and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the ADA is an 'equal opportunity' law for people with disabilities."

—www.ada.gov



The duration of this video is 2:12.

the link has changed.



Learn more about the ADA by watching this video: www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Km2WF4F7t8M

Title II of the ADA applies to state and local government entities, and, in subtitle A, protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs, and activities provided by state and local government entities. Title II extends the prohibition on discrimination established by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794, to all activities of state and local governments regardless of whether these entities receive federal financial assistance. Title II requires that state and local governments:

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- Give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from all programs, services, and activities (e.g. public education, employment, transportation, recreation, health care, social services, courts, voting, and town meetings).
- Must follow specific architectural standards in the new construction and alteration of their buildings.
- Must relocate programs or otherwise provide access in inaccessible older buildings, and communicate effectively with people who have hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

Public entities are not required to take actions that would result in undue financial and administrative burdens. They are required to make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures where necessary to avoid discrimination, unless they can demonstrate that doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity being provided.



Learn more about the ADA: www.ada.gov/



No Child Left Behind Act

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110) was a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Title 1 of the NCLB, as it became known, is "Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged." The purpose of this title is

"to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments."

According to the NCLB, this purpose can be accomplished by [emphasis added]:

- ensuring that high-quality academic assessments, accountability systems, teacher preparation and training, curriculum, and instructional materials are aligned with **challenging state academic standards** so that students, teachers, parents, and administrators can measure progress against common expectations for student academic achievement;
- meeting the educational needs of low-achieving children in our nation's highest-poverty schools,
 limited English proficient children, migratory children, children with disabilities, Indian children, neglected or delinquent children, and young children in need of reading assistance;

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 Preview the website in advance. Find an alternate resource if the link has changed.



closing the achievement gap between high- and low-performing children, especially the
achievement gaps between minority and nonminority students, and between disadvantaged children
and their more advantaged peers;

 holding schools, local educational agencies, and states accountable for improving the academic achievement of all students, and identifying and turning around low-performing schools that have failed to provide a high-quality education to their students, while providing alternatives to students in such schools

to enable the students to receive a high-quality education;

 distributing and targeting resources sufficiently to make a difference to local educational agencies and schools where needs are greatest;

 improving and strengthening accountability, teaching, and learning by using state assessment systems designed to ensure that students are meeting challenging state academic achievement and content standards and increasing achievement overall, but especially for the disadvantaged;

 providing greater decision-making authority and flexibility to schools and teachers in exchange for greater responsibility for student performance;

 providing children an enriched and accelerated educational program, including the use of school-wide programs or additional services that increase the amount and quality of instructional time;

 promoting school-wide reform and ensuring the access of children to effective, scientifically-based instructional strategies and challenging academic content;

 significantly elevating the quality of instruction by providing staff in participating schools with substantial opportunities for professional development;

 coordinating services under all parts of this title with each other, with other educational services, and, to the extent feasible, with other agencies providing services to youth, children, and families; and

 affording parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

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Learn more about NCLB by watching this video (**NOTE**: This video is 56:03 minutes long.): www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiGN7kVyeaM

1990, 1997, 2004 — Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or Public Law 101-476, replaced the EHA of 1975 and its Amendments of 1986. It placed greater emphasis on the individual, rather than on the individual's condition. The IDEA maintained key elements of the earlier law, such as FAPE, LRE and IEP. It required public schools to make available to all eligible children with disabilities a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) appropriate to their individual needs. The IDEA required public school systems to develop appropriate individualized education programs (IEPs) for each child. The specific special education and related services outlined in each IEP reflect the individualized needs of each student.



Learn more about the IDEA by watching this video: www.youtube.com/ watch?v=tzVjpx6Qe7M

Changes brought by the IDEA included new categories for special education and related services, such as autism, developmental delay, and traumatic brain injury. Additional special education services, including transition and assistive technology services, were added.

The IDEA also initiated a deliberate change to the language used to discuss disabilities. By replacing the word "handicap" with "disability"—including within the name of the law—the IDEA placed the person first. Such "people-first" language is language—speech or writing—that focuses on the individual person, not on the person's disability. It is language that reinforces the fact that every person is unique and that the disability is just one ingredient in that unique person.

 Preview the video in advance. Find an alternate video if the link has changed. The duration of this video is 56:03.

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Directions: The table below gives examples of people-first language alternatives. Can you think of others? If so, add them to the table.



• Preview the website

in advance. Find an alternate resource if the link has changed.

http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html

Avoid using words like these	Think about using people-first words like these instead
handicapped, crippled, differently abled, victim of, stricken with, suffers from	person with a disability, person who is blind
handicapped parking	accessible parking
Deformed	born with "—"
confined to a wheelchair, wheelchair-bound	person who uses a wheelchair, person who uses a walker NOTE: Walkers, wheelchairs, and crutches are mobility aids that help the user to participate more.
retarded, vegetable	person with intellectual disability, person with a developmental disability
lunatic, crazy, psycho	person with mental illness
stutterers	persons who stutter
normal, healthy, typical	non-disabled person, children without disabilities
brain-damaged	brain injury
she has special needs	she needs "—"
he is learning disabled	he has a learning disability
she's autistic	she has autism

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The IDEA also mandates that particular procedures be followed in the development of the IEP:

Each student's IEP must be developed by a team of knowledgeable persons and must be reviewed at least annually. The team includes the child's teacher; the parents, subject to certain limited exceptions; the child, if determined appropriate; an agency representative who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of special education; and other individuals at the parents' or agency's discretion.

If parents disagree with the proposed IEP, they can request a due process hearing and a review from the state educational agency (if applicable in that state). They also can appeal the state agency's decision to state or federal court.



Read more about IEP development in the *Special Education Handbook* (2013 Edition) from the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Special Education Services: http://ok.gov/sde/special-education

The 1997 reauthorization of IDEA, Public Law 105-17 (IDEA 1997), included amendments that emphasized education results and improved quality of special education. It also included tools for enforcement. Of particular concern at the time was the integration of students with disabilities into regular schools and classrooms. IDEA 1997 also addressed school discipline, giving educators more flexibility in disciplining children with disabilities, while at the same time directing them to act in anticipation of challenging behavior rather than punishing children for misbehavior associated with their disabilities.

The 2004 reauthorization of IDEA, Public Law 108-446 (IDEA 2004), included changes to the IEP process, due process, and further changes to student discipline. Other changes included:

The stated purposes of the IDEA were expanded to encompass preparing children for *further education*, in addition to employment and independent living.

IDEA 2004 referred to "core academic subjects" and provided new definitions for "highly qualified teachers" and "limited English proficient." In the definition of "related services," surgically implanted devices such as a cochlear implant are excluded. The term "universal design" is new to IDEA 2004.

IDEA 2004 included a revised subsection within the State Eligibility section relating to the placement of children in private schools by their parents. This revised subsection also included new language about consultation with representatives of private schools.



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Learn more about the evaluation of children for disability at the NICHCY website: http://nichcy.org/schoolage/evaluation#ld

Part C of IDEA addresses early intervention for babies and toddlers (to age 3). Part B of IDEA addresses services for school-aged children. By their third birthday, toddlers are expected to transition

14

 Preview the website in advance. Find an alternate resource if the link has changed.

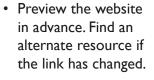
 Preview the website in advance. Find an alternate resource if the link has changed.



from early intervention to other programs, settings, or services. IDEA 2004 gave states the decision whether to provide Part C services until children are eligible for kindergarten.



Visit the NICHCY website at: http://nichcy.org/babies/transition. The website includes resources relating to transition.



Preview the activity

have changed.

in advance. Replace any links that may



Activity 1.3 Comparing Section 504 and IDEA (IEP)

Directions: Choose the response that best applies to each characteristic or statement. Use the resources below for clues to the correct responses.



www.washington.edu/doit/Stem/articles?52

http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html

http://specialchildren.about.com/od/504s/f/504faq2.htm

www.ncld.org/disability-advocacy/learn-ld-laws/adaaa-section-504/section-504-idea-comparison-chart

www.dredf.org/advocacy/comparison.html

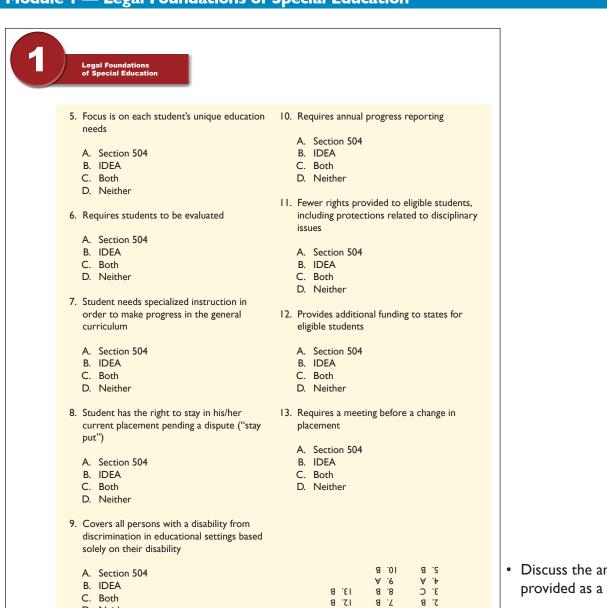
http://video.about.com/specialchildren/504-Plans-vs--IEPs.htm



- I. Student must have a disability
 - A. Section 504
 - B. IDEA C. Both
 - D. Neither
- 2. Allows parents to request independent evaluations at school district expense
 - A. Section 504
 - B. IDEA
 - C. Both
 - D. Neither

- 3. Provides for accommodations and modifications
 - A. Section 504
 - B. IDEA
 - C. Both D. Neither
- 4. Focus is on removing barriers to student participation
 - A. Section 504
 - B. IDEA
 - C. Both
 - D. Neither

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7. B

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D. Neither

· Discuss the answers provided as a group.



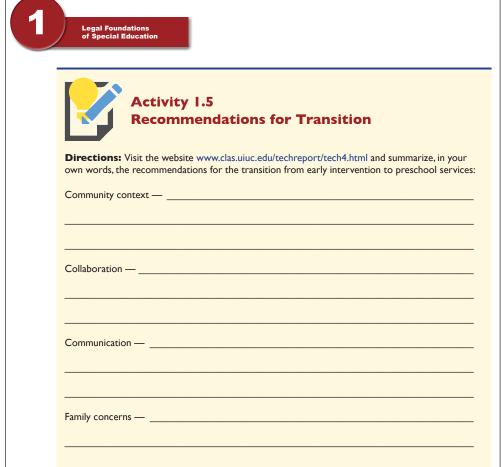
 Identify online resources to recommend for this activity.

Activity 1.4 Comparing IDEA Part C and Part B

Directions: Using online resources, find more ways to compare and contrast IDEA Part C and Part B.Write them in the spaces provided in the table.

Part C	Part B
Early intervention services	Services for school-aged children
Family-based services	Child-focused services
IFSP	IEP
Characterized by services relating to development and the potential for developmental delay	Characterized by services relating to access to the education environment
Often one-on-one services at the child's home	Often in a group setting at the child's school

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 Preview the activity in advance. Complete the activity in preparation for group discussion.
 If the link changes, adapt the activity as needed.

Continuity — ___

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 Provide samples for discussion purposes, if appropriate.



Activity 1.6 Locating Regulations, Guidelines & Procedures

Directions: Locate and obtain a copy of each of the following from your school, school district, or state authority, as appropriate:

- Procedures for developing positive behavioral support strategies
- · Procedures for managing and disciplining students with disabilities
- Procedures for maintaining and accessing student records
- Procedures for reporting suspected abuse

• Preview the activity in advance.



Activity 1.7 Disability Attitudes

Directions: Visit the IRIS Center website below and complete the activity, "Disability: Attitudes."



http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/iin0021.pdf

 Ask learners to complete the module review questions. Discuss the responses as a group.

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