

"IDEA vs. ADA" Answer Key

IDEA	ADA
Focuses specifically on children ages 3-21 (or until high school graduation)	Applies to individuals with disabilities of all ages
Applies only to educational settings	Covers a wide range of public and private sectors
IDEA: Mandates "free appropriate public education" (FAPE)	Requires "reasonable accommodations"
Schools must identify and evaluate students with potential disabilities	Individual must disclose disability and request accommodations
Requires an IEP for eligible students	No Individualized Education Program (IEP) required
Enforced by the Department of Education	Enforced by the Department of Justice and EEOC
Emphasizes specialized education services and supports	Focuses on accessibility and equal opportunity
Applies to public schools and some private schools receiving federal funding	Applies to employment, public services, and public accommodations
May require schools to create new programs to meet student needs	Does not require schools to provide new programs or services
Modifications are made to curriculum and instruction as needed	Modifications should not fundamentally alter the nature of services
Has a more specific list of 13 disability categories for eligibility	Covers a broader definition of disability
Provides federal funding to states and school districts for special education services	Does not provide funding to institutions for accommodations
Focuses on providing individualized education to meet unique learning needs	Aims to remove barriers and provide equal access
	Applies to public and private colleges and universities