Education Task Force

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Education Task Force monitors federal legislation and regulations that address the educational needs of children with disabilities and their families, including those listed below. The Education Task Force advocates to protect the rights and enhance opportunities for children under these laws. Below are the essential laws that support and promote educational opportunity for children with disabilities.

More information can be found at http://www.ccd.org/rubriques.php?rub=taskforce.php&id_task=2

- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
  IDEA, the nation’s special education law, was last reauthorized in 2004 and first became law in 1975 as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act. The IDEA makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children. The IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities birth through 21. Part D of IDEA provides discretionary grants to support state personnel development, technical assistance and dissemination, technology, and parent-training and information centers (https://sites.ed.gov/idea)

  o **Students served in 2016**: 6.8 million (ages 3-21) 373,000 (ages 0-3).

  o **Funding**: Annual formula-allocated funding to states. 2019 funding level: $13.2 billion (second largest education funding after Title I)

  o **Enforcement**: Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Dept. of Education (https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/about.html)

- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**
  The Every Student Succeeds Act is the nation’s latest K-12 education law, reauthorized in December 2015. It amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (most recently called the No Child Left Behind Act). ESSA requires states, districts and schools to disaggregate data for children with disabilities in areas of state assessments, graduation
rates and other key indicators. States must design and implement an accountability system that is used to identify the lowest performing schools in the state and make improvements. ([https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html))

- **Funding:** Annual formula-allocated funding to states. 2019 funding level: $16.3 billion (largest education funding)
- **Enforcement:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Dept. of Education

- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)**
  Section 504 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Section 504 plays an important role in education, especially for students with disabilities who may not qualify for special education services under IDEA. ([https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/know.html?src=ft](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/know.html?src=ft))

  - **Students served:** 900,000 in 2013-2014 (Civil Rights Data Collection)
  - **Funding:** None
  - **Enforcement:** Office for Civil Rights (OCR), US Dept. of Ed. Primarily complaint-based.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
  Passed in 1990, the ADA is the first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities. The ADA protects the civil rights of people with disabilities in all aspects of employment; in accessing public services such as transportation; and guaranteeing access to public accommodations such as restaurants, stores, schools, hotels, and other types of buildings to which the public has access. Amended in 2008 by the ADA Amendments Act to restore the intent and protections of the ADA and amend other disability nondiscrimination laws at the Federal level including Section 504. ([www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov))

  - **Funding:** None
  - **Enforcement:** Civil Rights Division, US Dept. of Justice enforces the ADA

Office for Civil Rights (OCR), US Dept. of Ed enforces Title II of the ADA