



School Nurse Guide to Special Education and 504 Services

Loree S. LaChance, MHA, MSN, RN, NCSN &
Macie Walker, BSN, RN



Objectives

- Define purposes of Section 504 and Special Education laws
- Define common acronyms
- Define basic processes of 504 Services, Special Education services, and Private Duty Nursing
- Identify the role of the school nurse in 504 services, IEP services, and Private Duty Nursing

Acronyms & Terminology

- 504 - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- IDEA- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- IEP - Individualized Education Plan (Program)
- ARD - Admission, Review, and Dismissal
- FAPE - Free, Appropriate Public Education
- FBA - Functional Behavioral Assessment
- BIP - Behavior Intervention Plan
- MDR - Manifestation Determination Review

Acronyms & Terminology

- LRE - Least Restrictive Environment
- OHI - Other Health Impairment
- PLAAFP - Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance
- ESY - Extended School Year
- PPCD - Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities
- Child Find
- Due Process

Purpose of Section 504 and IDEA

Provide access to education* for all children

- Non-discriminatory
- Appropriate
- Accountable

History of Section 504 and IDEA

- Section 504
 - Civil Rights Law
 - Originally for returning Vietnam Veterans
 - Applies to programs and activities receiving federal funding
 - No age limitations

History of Section 504 and IDEA

- IDEA
 - Federal Education Law
 - Education for All Handicapped Children Act
 - Federal funding to guarantee special education and related service to eligible children
 - Birth to 21 years

Similarities

- Who defines eligibility
- Team discussion
- Participation of knowledgeable experts
- Child Find
- FAPE
- Evaluations

Differences

- Funding
- Eligibility
- Team Members
- Evaluation and Placement
- Accommodations versus modifications
- Penalizing entity for non-compliance



504 Services

Significant Need to Knows

- Eligibility changes
 - Currently no diagnosis required
- Parent does not have to be present
- All who interact with student required to follow accommodations
- Reimbursements & relationship to initiating services
- Failure to implement/follow plan is a Civil Rights violation

504 Process

- Identification of potential eligibility
- Assessment data
- Evaluation and eligibility determination
- Development of accommodations
- Notification of plan components

Why a School Nurse is Important

- Nature of the eligibility
 - Who is the Subject Matter Expert?
- Texas legislative requirement
 - Required to focus on Dyslexia
- Use beyond secondary education
- IH(C)P Inclusion

Examples of RN-driven 504 Accommodations

- Diabetes
 - PE first period of the day
 - Checking BS prior to any type of testing
- Anxiety
 - Non-verbal signal allowing student to leave class
 - Safe/quiet place
- Asthma
 - Indoor activities on Ozone Action days

Examples of RN-driven 504 Accommodations

- Cancer
 - Adjusting for Chemo Brain, especially
 - Executive functioning skills
 - Math, abstract concepts
- Allergies
 - No sharing classrooms
 - Advance notice of “food” projects
 - Just in Case box
- Other examples?



Special Education

ARD - Admission, Review, Dismissal Committee

- Applies to SPED (not 504)
- Decision making body related to educational programming
- Includes parent or adult student, teachers (SPED and Regular Ed), other professionals as required by law
- Initial vs annual vs 3-year re-evaluation

IEP - Individualized Education Program

- Plan that targets areas of student need
 - Academic and behavioral
 - Related services required?
- Developed by ARD Committee
- Individualized
- Reviewed and updated by ARD Committee at least once a year

IEP - Individualized Education Program

- Required Elements
 - Present levels of functioning
 - Annual Goals - LT/ST
 - Extent of participation in GenEd
 - Services and modifications
 - Strategies for evaluation
 - Transition plan, if applicable

Why a School Nurse is Important

- Nature of the eligibility
 - Who is the Subject Matter Expert?
- Texas legislative requirement
 - Only reason why a school district **MUST** have a School Nurse
- Anything nursing, even if not r/t eligibility, included
- Don't be afraid to use the L word

SPED and Nursing Services

“School health services and school nurse services means health services that are designed to enable a child with a disability to receive FAPE as described in the child’s IEP....”

- School Nurse Services - provided by school nurse
- School Health Services - Provided by nurse or other qualified person
- Required of District to provide

Nursing and Health Services - related services


- Services determined by orders and student need to meet educational goals in school setting
- Evaluation with consent
- MD orders - skilled nursing vs school health
- ARD Decision - Nursing minutes and care as determined in ARD

Examples of RN-driven Goals & Outcomes

- ADHD medication management - having PRN dosages available at school, even if prescribed QD.
- ADHD - feedback for physician/therapist with management changes
- Clarification of parent/teacher concerns
- Executive functioning and Independence/Self-help

Questions about Attending ARDs

- Do you have to stay for entire meeting?
- Can I be excluded by parent if I was invited by school, and vice versa?
- Do I have to write goals, outcomes, and calculate minutes?
- What if the team doesn't agree with my recommendations?



School Nurse Services and Private Duty Nurses

Who provides the nurse/services?

- Determined by ARD Committee (including nurse)
 - District School Nurse and delegation
 - District PDN
 - Parent PDN

PDNs - The Woes

- Campus nurse responsible for coordination of care of students on campus
 - Supervision?
 - duty to a patient
- Parent or district provided nurse doesn't show, gets sick, etc?
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate