Highlights of the Differences and Similarities Between IEP and 504 Plans

IEP

- Must fit one of the IDEA disability eligibility categories
- Provides specifically designed instruction, not just accommodations
- Has goals and progress monitoring
- Procedural safeguards for parents
- School required to include parents
- IDEA/Dept. of Ed and states are the overseers
- All public schools must make this available to eligible students
- Annual meeting with revisions

BOTH

- FREE for parents
- Should meet the child's needs
- Requires a disability and evaluation: evaluation process is different for each situation

504 PLAN

- Any disability
- Focuses on how the child learns
- Limited rights and recourse if parent is not satisfied
- No goals or progress monitoring
- Not a special education program
- Overseen by Office of Civil Rights and Health and Human Services
- School does not have to seek parental input to develop plan
- Applies to any school receiving public funds
- School can change plan at any time without parental input

