



# History of Disability Legislation for Students with Disabilities

## History and Timeline

---

### 1973 – Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

- Increased funding for state vocational rehabilitation agencies
- Added discrimination protection for individuals with disabilities
- Stated that students with disabilities must receive a free and appropriate education equal to that of their peers without disabilities
- Introduced 504 Plans for eligible students to receive appropriate services and changes to the learning environment

### 1975 – The Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EHA)

- EHA had three main provisions:
  1. Students must be provided with a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE)
  2. Students with disabilities must be educated in the least restrictive environment (LRE)
  3. Every student with a disability must receive an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

### 1983 – Pilot transition services added to EHA

- Sought to promote a seamless transition from secondary education to adulthood

### 1990 – EHA renamed - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Provided specific definitions and requirements for transition services
  - o Required transition services beginning at age 16





### **1998 – Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**

- Provided federal funds for employment and training assistance to develop job opportunities and increase wages for youth with disabilities

### **2004 – IDEA amended**

- Required teachers to meet the definition of “highly qualified teacher”
- Changed the transition planning and documentation age requirement back to 16 (many states opted to keep the age at 14)
- Added 3 requirements that focus on accountability:
  1. Schools must complete a checklist to ensure compliance with transition requirements are met (Indicator 13)
  2. School must measure adulthood outcomes one year after students leave high school (Indicator 14)
  3. Students must exit high school with a Summary of Performance (SOP)

### **2014 – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

- Reauthorized WIA and amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Provided guidance to increase preparation/education and supports related to employment for low-income, at-risk, and vulnerable populations.
- Students with disabilities receive Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) in up to five areas:
  1. Job Exploration Counseling
  2. Workplace Readiness Training
  3. Work-based Learning
  4. Instruction in Self-Advocacy
  5. Counseling on Postsecondary Education

