



Learning Differences is the term used to describe the variety of reasons why students might struggle with learning and attention issues. These include:

- ★ **Specific learning disabilities**, or a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using spoken or written language. These include:
 - ★ **Dyslexia**, or difficulty reading
 - ★ **Dysgraphia**, or difficulty writing
 - ★ **Dyscalculia**, or difficulty in math
- ★ **Executive Function Disorder**, or difficulty with the skills needed to plan, monitor, and reach goals, such as managing emotions and problem solving
- ★ **ADD/ADHD (Attention-Deficit-Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)**, or difficulty paying attention, controlling impulses, or being overly active
- ★ **Auditory and/or Visual Processing Disorders**, or difficulty hearing or seeing

Individualized Education Plan, or IEP, is a written plan developed to ensure that a child with an identified learning difference who attends a public elementary or secondary school receives the specialized instruction and services that they need. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires an IEP for a child whose learning differences fall into one of 13 categories recognized by the federal law. The plan is developed by a team of individuals working with the child and the child's family members or a designated advocate.

Accommodations are tools and changes made to help a student learn better. They change the process a student uses to complete an assignment or take a test—for example, by using technology or taking more time—without changing what the assignment is. Accommodations help a student work around or overcome a learning difference to make learning more accessible. Accommodations may be required as part of a child's IEP or under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which guarantees certain rights to people with disabilities.

