

Support Plan vs. 504 Plan: What's the Difference?

Support Plan	504 Plan
A first and continuing step in the process of providing student support, the beginning of the process	A finalized, formal result of going through the process of evaluating what kind of support a student needs
An organized way to keep records of the interventions, student needs, and team meetings related to a student	An organized way to keep records of the interventions, student needs, and team meetings related to a student
Typically used for a student who is moderately discrepant from their peers (the process stops at a support plan)	Typically used for a student who is greatly discrepant from their peers (the process continues from a support plan and turns into a 504 plan)
A flexible document	A more rigid, legal document
Does not require parent consent, although SCCS always seeks it	Requires parent consent
A way of recording interventions that are in place to see which are working and which aren't, a way of recording interventions during the process of evaluation	A way of documenting interventions that work (after trying interventions through a support plan) and will need to continue with the student for an extended amount of time
Does not require a diagnosed disability or difficulty	Section 504 is an Act that prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a mental or physical impairment which <i>substantially</i> limits one or more major life activity; • Has a record of such impairment; • Is regarded as having such an impairment.
Available to all students at SCCS.	Available to students being regarded as having a disability or actually diagnosed with a disability.
A general education plan	A general education plan
Referrals can be made by parent or teacher	Referrals can be made by parent or teacher
After a referral is made, the school team will meet to discuss the referral, analyze data, and come to a decision of whether a plan is needed. The parent will be invited to the team meeting.	After a referral is made, the school team will meet to discuss the referral, analyze data, and come to a decision of whether a plan is needed. The parent will be invited to the team meeting.
Team meetings are held as needed.	Team meetings are held at least on a yearly basis.

NOTE: Students begin on a support plan unless they have a disability that *substantially* limits one or more major life activity.