



Nystagmus in a School Setting

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Two Stories



Presentation Will Cover

- Differences between IEPs and 504s and how they apply to students with nystagmus.
- Differences between accommodations and modifications and examples from real classrooms.
- Learn how to prepare for a meeting with various school educators.
- Strategies for state and national testing

Section 504

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 created and extended civil rights to people with disabilities.
- It provides children and adults with disabilities reasonable accommodations in education, employment and other settings.

504 Plan

- A 504 Plan is provided by a school to address the special needs of a student with a disability.
- For nystagmus this would involve addressing the vision impairment and the effects on the educational environment and the student's learning.

Individual with Disabilities Education Act

- Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EHA) was passed by U.S. Congress in 1975
- In 1990, Congress reauthorized EHA and changed the title to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- IDEA has four parts and ensures that students with disabilities are provided with Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) tailored to the individual needs of the student.

Individual with Disabilities Education Act

Part A – General law provisions

Part B – Assistance for education for all children with disabilities

Part C – Children from birth to age 3

Part D – National support programs administered at the federal level.

IDEA

- Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
- Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Appropriate Evaluation
- Parent and Teacher Participation
- Procedural Safeguards

Individual with Disabilities Education Act

- 2004 IDEA reauthorized to Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act
- IDEA 2004 or IDEIA 2004

Is Nystagmus covered under 504 or IEP?

- Students with nystagmus don't automatically qualify for special education services. In order to be eligible, a student must:
 - Have a disability ***and, as a result of that disability...***
 - Need special education in order to make progress in school
- Students with nystagmus always qualify for a 504 Plan

Accommodations vs. Modification

Modification involves a change to what a student is taught or expected to learn.

Accommodations is something that will help the student learn the same material and meet the same expectations as their classmates.

Preparing for an IEP/504 Meeting

- Pediatric Ophthalmology Report
- Low Vision Specialist Report
- Information Sheet on Nystagmus
- Personalized Information on your Child's Needs

Who Attends the Meeting

- Teachers
- Counselor
- Administrator
- Special Education Specialists
- Vision Specialist
- District Representative
- Parents

Things to Remember

- You are the expert on your child's needs
- They are the experts in regards to educating your child
- Build a strong collaborative relationship

Potential Accommodations for Nystagmus

- Varies from child to child
- Large print (large print can cause eye fatigue which makes the nystagmus worse)
- Copies of overhead and board presentations
- Sit in front of room (best side for null point)

Potential Accommodations for Nystagmus

- Have own copy of materials can not share with a classmate
- Extra time on test and assignments
- Visit classroom the day before school starts
- Technology (magnifiers, laptops, etc.)
- Recording devices

Potential Accommodations for Nystagmus

- Copy of class notes from the teacher or another student.
- No scantron (bubble) tests. They may cause eye fatigue. Write answers on test paper.
- Sunglasses and hats (to deal with sunlight or glare)
- Ability to move seats as needed

State and National Testing

- State and national tests typically follow the current IEP or 504 plan.
- College Board and ACT require a current vision exam and report.
- Low vision specialists may provide the best reports for the national testing centers because they perform relatively more comprehensive testing.

SAT and ACT

- Extra time on test is possible.
- Double time requires that the student split the SAT over two days. As a result, the student will miss a day of school for testing.
- Time and a Half will result in a longer testing day (i.e., six hours as opposed to four).

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