

Texas A&M University- San Antonio  
Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation  
EDSE 5327 Special Populations: Legislation, Litigation, and Advocacy Online

**A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT** We will cover state and federal legislation and litigation ensuring the rights of special populations for full participation in American society and effective lifespan advocacy with and for individuals from special populations and their families.

**B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Differentiate between the federal and state legal systems;
2. Explain the major provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Family Education and Privacy Act, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and other federal and state laws affecting the education of students with disabilities;
3. Identify and explain major principles of the IDEA;
4. Identify and explain major litigation leading to enactment of the IDEA;
5. Discuss and evaluate major court rulings regarding the IDEA;
6. Critically discuss and evaluate legal trends in special education;
7. Develop legally-sound policies and procedures with respect to special education in accordance with the legislation and litigation;
8. Locate sources of information regarding legislation and litigation regarding special education; and
9. Analyze the advocacy process and synthesize an advocacy plan for parents.

**C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS**

What is the legal process?  
The History of the Law  
IDEA  
The IEP  
Parents and Advocacy  
FAPE  
LRE  
Section 504 and the ADA  
Section 504 and the ADA  
Procedural Safeguards  
Procedural Safeguards  
Identification, Assessment, & Eligibility  
Identification, Assessment, & Eligibility  
Disciplining Students with Disabilities  
Additional Issues

**D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS**

Yell, M. (2018). *The law and special Education*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson.  
Other readings will be provided on Blackboard