



What Is a 504 Plan for Children with Special Needs?

If your child has a physical or mental disability, she/he may be eligible for a 504 plan.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is the civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability; and guarantees individuals with disabilities equal access to an education.

What is a 504 plan?

- A 504 plan is a written plan created for students with disabilities who require accommodations to be successful in the classroom.
- A 504 plan **is not** an Individualized Education Program (IEP) which requires more specialized instruction.
- A 504 plan is designed to insure that a student with a 504 disability is able to receive a free and appropriate public education under Section 504: that is, to receive educational opportunities and access to the educational environment that are comparable to that which the District provides to other students in that class who do not have a disability.

An eligible person/student is any person who:

- has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity (such as learning, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, speaking, hearing and working); or
- has a record of such impairment; or
- is regarded as having such an impairment

What accommodations are considered appropriate under Section 504?

- Education in typical classroom settings.
- Education in typical classrooms with accommodations.
- Special education and related services (only for 504 students also placed in special education).
- Any combination of the above.

Parents, teachers, adult-aged students, other staff, or community agencies can request a review for Section 504 eligibility determination.

- Submit a written request to the school asking for an evaluation to determine if there is a significant impact on the child's learning and/or behavior.
- Request a copy of your school district's policies and procedures on Section 504.
- A 504 committee could include parents, teachers, social workers, Section 504 coordinator, school psychologist, school administrator or others with knowledge of the child, the evaluations and the school resources.
- This committee determines student needs based on information from a variety of sources.
- An accommodation plan is written to address the individual needs of the eligible student.
- Plans are reviewed periodically (generally on a yearly basis)

- A plan may be terminated when, once an evaluation has been completed and the 504 committee determines, based on the information gathered from a variety of sources, that the student no longer has a substantial limitation to a major life activity.
- 504 plans and termination documentation become part of the student's school records.

NOTE: Students in Special Education are also covered by the protections of Section 504. For more information on the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, including a 504 plan, please visit the following website:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/cguide.htm>