

SECTION 504 POLICY REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES REGULATION

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in programs receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines individuals with a disability as those who:

1. have a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activity;
2. have a record of such impairment; or
3. are regarded as having such an impairment.

It is the policy of the district to insure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 are identified, evaluated, and provided free and appropriate educational services, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability.

Identification

The Child Study Team in each school shall serve as an assessment team for the Building Principal or designee. Referrals may come from professional staff, parents, public health/welfare/educational agencies, physicals, self referrals, or as the results of diagnostic screening.

Once the Director of Pupil Services receives the referral (which may be a CST referral form or a written letter of referral), he/she will send the parent/legal guardian a copy of the Board of Education Policy regarding Section 504, and notice of meeting to invite them to discuss the reasons for referral and assessment plans.

Accommodation Plans

Appropriate adaptations and interventions in regular classes may enable schools to effectively address the instructional needs of students with disabilities protected within the definition of Section 504, without the need for special education or related services. Such accommodations may include, but not limited to adaptations in communications, organization/management, alternative teaching strategies, and/or student precautions.

To assure students with disabilities under Section 504 access to regular school programs and activities, appropriate services might also include any educationally related support services.

Due Process

The accommodation plan will include the nature of the disability, the effects of the disability on school performance, accommodations to be made, and a date for review/assessment. Parents will be included in developing the accommodation plan.

Under Section 504, parents of students with disabilities are entitled to notice regarding actions affecting the identification, evaluation or educational placement of their children and may request special education mediation or an impartial hearing if they disagree with the determination regarding a free appropriate education.

Reevaluation

Reevaluation is recommended prior to any significant change throughout the student's educational program.

Access to Non-Academic Extracurricular Services

The district will offer protected students equal opportunities to participate in non-academic and extracurricular services and activities.

District Section 504 Compliance Officer for Students

The Director of Pupil Personnel Services will serve as the district Section 504 Compliance Officer. Copies of all forms and correspondence regarding a referral and subsequent actions will be forwarded to this office. The compliance officer will be responsible for maintaining district files on students referred and assure compliance with Section 504 guidelines.

Adoption date: April 30, 1996