



## Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

### ***What is Section 504?***

#### Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 is an anti-discrimination statute that prohibits any recipient of federal funds from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. Included in the definition are all public school districts. Section 504 does not confer any special rights on disabled persons beyond the right to be free from discrimination.

### ***What is a Section 504 Plan?***

A 504 Plan is a written document that identifies the specific accommodations a student with a disability requires. The plan is generated by a Section 504 team (which includes parent, teacher, administrator, case manager, and other persons knowledgeable about the student/data) and is disseminated to the necessary school personnel. It is reviewed at least annually and modified if needed based on the student's individual needs.

### ***Who qualifies for a Section 504 Plan?***

In order to qualify for a 504 Plan a student must meet two criteria:

- *The student has a physical or mental impairment and*
- *The impairment substantially limits one or more major life activities (caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working). This list is not exhaustive and other areas of impairment (such as concentration and social interaction) may also be considered.*

The Section 504 team makes the determination as to whether or not these criteria are met. The decision is based on a Section 504 evaluation, which may involve a review of existing data or may require the collection of additional data (e.g., assessments, records, diagnosis).

### ***What services does a Section 504 Plan Provide?***

The purpose of a 504 Plan is to provide accommodations for the student with a disability, in order to "level the playing field" with non-disabled peers and allow equal access to educational services. Students with disabilities are entitled to a *free and appropriate public education*. Section 504 accommodations should be provided in the *least restrictive environment* and may range from minor accommodations to the provision of special services. The degree of services provided is based entirely on the specific needs of the student.

Please contact your student's school to request the Section 504 Case Manager.