

What is Section 504?

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal civil rights statute, which protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination in district services and programs.

Who is protected from discrimination?

Under this law, an individual with a disability is a person with a physical or mental impairment or a person who has a history of, or is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include but are not limited to caring for one's self, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, performing manual tasks, learning, reading, and concentration.

How do I access a Section 504 Accommodation Plan for my child?

If you suspect your child has a physical or mental impairment that requires accommodations, special services and/or supports to enable your child to participate in school sponsored academic and nonacademic programs and/or activities, please contact your building administrator to discuss your concerns to determine whether a referral to the Section 504 team is needed.

Once a referral is made will my child have to be tested?

Not necessarily. The Section 504 team, which includes you as the parent/guardian, will review all relevant background, current school based testing and available information such as teacher reports and report cards and any relevant medical and other information you would like the team to consider. The team will determine if any standardized testing is necessary to determine whether your child has a disability that substantially limits access to academic programs or extracurricular activities.

Who determines if my child will receive protection under Section 504 and have a plan?

After all information is gathered and any necessary testing is completed the Section 504 team will reconvene and review all the information and make a decision if your child will be protected under Section 504 and whether your child is in need of a plan.

What determines if my child will receive protection under Section 504?

After the team reviews all of the information gathered the team shall determine if the child's disability substantially limits a major life activity and what, if any accommodations, and/or supports are necessary to enable the child to participate in school sponsored academic and extra-curricular programs and activities to the same extent as their non-disabled peers.