

Section 504

*Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
Section 504 Accommodation Plans
under the
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*

**Purpose - Eligibility - Examples of
Accommodations**

Developed by
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Education Committee
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Purpose of Section 504 (a federal civil rights law)

1. The purpose of Section 504 is to protect persons with disabilities against discrimination for reasons related to their disabilities.
2. Under Section 504 a student may receive accommodations that might otherwise not be available to students without disabilities.
3. Section 504 plans can provide accommodations for a student for class work, home work, and building accessibility.
4. Unlike IDEA, Section 504 does not guarantee that a student with a disability will receive an individualized education program that is designed to meet the students's individual educational needs.
5. Every school district has to have a Section 504 Coordinator. Call your Intermediate School District or Regional Educational Service Agency to find out who it is.

Eligibility

1. Just because a student has a disability or impairment does not mean that he/she automatically qualifies for special education services under the IDEA. A student with a disability who does not need special education services will not qualify for special education and related services under the IDEA. He or she may, however, receive protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

2. Eligibility for protections under Section 504 depends on the student in question having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits at least one major life activity.
3. A major life activity includes walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, writing, working, and caring for oneself. The Section 504 Education Team must determine whether the child has an "impairment" that "substantially limits one or more major life activities."
4. Section 504 may be used to obtain building and room accessibility.
5. Section 504 requires an evaluation that gathers information from many sources. Section 504 does not require a change in placement meeting.
6. A child who receives Section 504 protections has fewer rights and does not have the procedural protections that are automatically available under the IDEA.

Examples of Accommodations

Flash cards
Oral reports
Study guides
Books on tape
Verbal responses to tests
Tests read to student
Worksheets/tests at lower reading level
"Open book" or "take home" tests
Tape recorded lectures
Copy of teacher's or other student's notes

Adjusted length of assignments and tests
Different format of assignments and tests
Reduction in paper and pencil tasks
Seating arrangements
Extra breaks
Page numbers to help find answers
Textbooks for use at home
Peer readers
Alternative books with same concepts but easier reading level
Visual aids
Opportunities to learn skills in several settings or environments
Use of "post-it" notes
Use of page markers
Use of a calculator
Teacher marks correct, rather than incorrect, work
Opportunity to redo assignments to make corrections
Grading of correct work only
Alternative grading system
Highlighting critical information in reading assignments
Extra time to do assignments and tests
(These are examples. Accommodations should be based on individual needs.)

Resources

www.tsa-usa.org/educ_advoc/section%20504.htm

www.PACER.org