

Section 504

Notice of Parent/Student Rights

One Page Summary

What is Section 504?

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a broad civil rights law regulated by the Office of Civil Rights. It provides that "No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States ...shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance ...29U.S.C. Section 794(a) (1998).

To comply with Section 504 the school district will:

- 1) Provide a free appropriate education to students with disabilities
- 2) Seek out, identify, and evaluate students who may have a disability under Section 504
- 3) Provide special accommodations and services to students identified under Section 504 as defined in their written individual accommodation plan
- 4) Discipline students in accordance with the law
- 5) Ensure that extracurricular activities are accessible to students identified under Section 504
- 6) Provide notice to parents/guardians regarding evaluation, identification, reevaluation, and due process rights
- 7) Provide all staff access to information regarding Section 504

Section 504 Parent/Student Rights

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions.

You have the right to:

- Have your child take part in and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of her/his disabling condition.
- Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law in your native language.
- Receive notice with respect to Section 504 identification, evaluation, and/or placement of your child.
- Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with nondisabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make necessary accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities.
- Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided to nondisabled students.
- Have your child receive special education and related services if she / he is found to be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or to receive reasonable accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Have eligibility and educational placement decisions based upon a variety of information sources, and by individuals who know the student, the eligibility data, and placement options.
- Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities.
- Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's Section 504 identification, eligibility, evaluation, educational program, and placement.
- Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
- Receive a response from the district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
- Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is a reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child.
- File a complaint with the district when you believe your child's rights have been violated.
- Request an impartial hearing regarding the Section 504 identification, evaluation, or educational placement of your child. You and the student may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you at your own cost.
- File a formal complaint with the Iowa Department of Education or the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (Region VII).

Section 504 Coordinators / Compliance Officers

If you have general questions about your student and Section 504 or would like information about the grievance procedure please contact your principal, building 504 coordinator, or district-level support personnel.