

SECTION 504 REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

“No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, as defined in Section 706(8) of this title, shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance...”

29 U.S.C. §749(a)

Section 504 covers qualified students with disabilities who attend schools receiving Federal financial assistance. To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to: (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or (2) have a record of such an impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such an impairment. Section 504 requires that school districts provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to qualified students in their jurisdictions who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.



CONTACT US

If you have questions regarding the Section 504 process, contact:

- Campus Counselor - 504 Case Manager
- Campus Principal
- FWISD Special Programs: 817-814-2878



Department of Special Programs
215 NE 14th Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76164
817.814.2460 • www.fwisd.org/section504

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A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

SECTION 504

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Section 504 is an anti-discrimination statute that extends automatically to special education (IDEA) students.

The statute requires the District:

- To identify and notify qualified disabled students of their rights
- To evaluate students to determine eligibility
- To meet the needs of eligible disabled students as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students
- To provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE)
- To provide the parents of each eligible student with required procedural safeguards

Students between the ages of three (3) and twenty-two (22) years of age, who meet the following definition of a disability:

- Has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities
- Has a record of such impairment
- Is regarded as having such an impairment

SUBSTANTIAL LIMITATION IS REQUIRED

- Students may have a condition or impairment, but will not require 504 services in order to be successful in the classroom.
- The learning of most 504 students is “substantially” affected.
- Some students may have an impairment that does not affect learning, yet extra help is needed of some kind from the district to access learning better.
- Do not consider “Mitigating Measures” with the exception of eyeglasses.

PLACEMENT AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Placement remains in the General Education Setting with individually developed accommodations through a 504 Plan.

- Oral Testing
- Behavior Plan
- Shortened Assignments
- Adjusted assignments (not content)
- Preferential Seating
- Extra Time
- Accommodations for Testing
- Supplemental Materials
- Dyslexia Services, if eligible
- Counseling Services
- Tutoring Assistance

CONDITIONS MAY INCLUDE

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Dyslexia | • Food Allergies |
| • Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder | • Behavioral Issues |
| • Visual Impairments | • Epilepsy |
| • Hearing Impairments | • Sickle Cell |
| • Learning Difficulties | • Cerebral Palsy |
| • Social/Emotional Issues | • Anxiety |
| • Orthopedic Impairments | • Depression |
| • Asthma | • Bipolar |
| | • Other Disorders of Major Body Functions |



WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

1. Contact your Campus – each school has a 504 Case Manager.
2. Parents or a student’s school may initiate a referral.
3. If a current impairment and the need for services is suspected, the campus moves to evaluate.
4. “Evaluation” starts with the gathering of information from a variety of sources (i.e., tests, health information, parent information, grades, behavior, attendance, academics, etc.).
5. Parents receive notice of the referral, consent for evaluation, and parents’ and students’ rights.
6. Once the information gathering is complete and initial consent is obtained, the 504 committee will determine Section 504 eligibility.
7. If the student is eligible, the committee will request consent for services and create an accommodation plan for the student.