

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

This type of education plan falls under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This is part of the federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against public school students with disabilities and includes students with learning and attention issues who meet certain criteria.

A 504 Plan, like an Individualized Education Program (IEP), can help students with learning and attention issues learn and participate in the general education curriculum. 504 Plans outline how a student's specific needs are met with accommodations, modifications and other services. These measures "remove barriers" to learning.

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

504 Plans are for K-12 students with disabilities. Disability, as defined by Section 504, is very broad. Under Section 504, a student with a disability may be defined as someone who:

- Has physical or mental impairment that "substantially" limits one or more major life activity (such as reading or concentrating).
- Has a record of the impairment.
- Is regarded as having an impairment, or a significant difficulty that is not temporary. For example, a broken leg would not qualify as a condition warranting a 504 since that injury will but, a chronic condition, like a food allergy, might.

Additional conditions and learning disabilities like ADHD are covered by Section 504 however having a disability or condition does not automatically make a student eligible for a 504 Plan.

There is an evaluation process for students to go through before being considered eligible for a 504 Plan.

### **Evaluating students for 504 Plans.**

The evaluation can be initiated by either the parent or the school. If the school initiates the evaluation, it must notify the parents and get parental consent to evaluate for the 504 Plan.

The school considers the following information and information sources during the evaluation for the 504 Plan:

- Documentation of the student's disability (such as a doctor's diagnosis)
- Evaluation results (if the school recently evaluated for an IEP)
- Observations by the student's parents and teachers
- Academic records
- Independent evaluations, if available.

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

There is no standard 504 plan required by law. Generally speaking, 504 Plans should include specific accommodations, supports or services, all tailored to a student's individual needs.

504 Plans may contain specialized instruction in a general education classroom or related services.

**Who is involved in the 504 Plan development?**

The 504 team or committee includes: the student's general education teacher(s), school administration, parents/guardians and the student.

**I think my child qualifies for 504 plan. Now what?**

Any questions regarding a potential 504 Plan, can be directed to your child's building administrator.

**Procedural Safeguards for 504 Plans**

The Procedural Safeguards Notice for 504 Plans can be found attached as a PDF. A physical copy can also be requested in person at each building in the district.