

Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a national law that protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability. Under this law, individuals with disabilities are defined as persons with a physical or mental impairment, which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include caring for one's self, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, performing manual tasks, and learning. In schools this law provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodations, referred to as a 504 Accommodation Plan, to enable them to effectively function in the school environment.

A student's eligibility for a 504 Accommodation Plan is not determined at the Special Education Team Eligibility Determination Meeting. The Team may only suggest that an accommodation plan may be appropriate. The building based 504 coordinator is responsible to convene a Team, which may include a member of the Evaluation Team or guidance counselor to determine if the student's disability warrants a 504 Accommodation Plan and what should be included on that plan. The 504 coordinator and a classroom teacher as well as the parent must all be members of that Team.