

What You Need to Know About Section 504

Section 504 is a federal civil rights law. It protects students from disability discrimination by public schools, and by any college, trade school, or private school that receives federal funding.

Section 504 covers students of all ages who have a physical or mental disability, have a record of a physical or mental disability, or who are regarded as having a physical or mental disability.

Students with disabilities have the right to equal access to participate in and benefit from learning and school activities. Public K-12 schools may provide a written 504 plan when a student has a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. That can include reading, learning, and concentrating.

A 504 Plan May Include:

- **Accommodations**
 - Changes in the classroom to how the child learns the curriculum
 - Examples: extra time on tests, seating near the front of the class
- **Assistive Technology**
 - Tools that help the child work around barriers to learning
 - Examples: calculators, keyboards, graphic organizers
- **School Services**
 - Services that help the child get access to general education.
 - Examples: speech therapy, transportation

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