

Section 504

Fact Sheet for Parents



What is Section 504?

Section 504 is part of a long-standing federal civil rights law that guarantees certain protections to people with disabilities.



Who does Section 504 protect?

Section 504 protects people with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, such as caring for one's self, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, performing manual tasks, and learning.



Is dyslexia and related disorders included under Section 504?

Dyslexia and related disorders are protected under Section 504 and may be included as a specific learning disability under the IDEA. Students with dyslexia and related disorders and who receive the state's standard dyslexia protocol are included under Section 504.

Section 504 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) both . . .

- Provide protections for students with disabilities. However, while all students in special education are protected under Section 504, not all students covered by Section 504 are eligible for special education.
- Provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to each student, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. However, the FAPE standard under Section 504 is different than the FAPE standard under IDEA.

What does Section 504 require schools to do?

- There are typically three tiers of support in an RtI model.
- Provide a plan for accommodation, periodic review and re-evaluation to meet the student's individual needs.
 - Give notice to parents regarding the identification, evaluation and/or placement of their child.

What does a 504 plan include?

It includes the accommodations and services that the individual student needs. The plan makes sure that the student has equal access to learning to the same extent as non-disabled students.

What rights do parents have under Section 504?

- Request a hearing with respect to the school's actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of their child
- File a complaint with the school's Section 504 Coordinator or with the appropriate regional Office for Civil Rights
- Receive notice about the identification, evaluation and/or placement of their child
- Examine their child's records

