

Section 504: Glossary of Terms

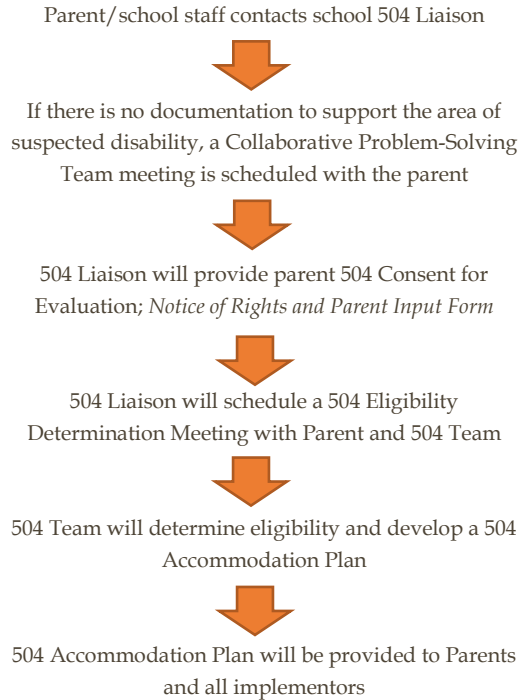
504 Liaison – Manages the Section 504 program at the school level. The 504 Liaison facilitates the Section 504 evaluation and eligibility process, development of accommodation plans, annual reviews, and periodic reviews. They also educate faculty, staff, and parents about Section 504/ADA laws and related School Board of Broward County requirements and procedures.

Accommodations – Changes that are made in how the student accesses information and demonstrates performance.

Nondiscrimination – Section 504 mandates nondiscrimination. No otherwise qualified individual with a disability, can solely by reason of his or her disability, be subjected to discrimination.

Equal Access – Equal opportunity of a qualified person with a disability to participate in or benefit from education aid, benefits, or services.

Request for 504 Evaluation



504 DISTRICT SPECIALIST

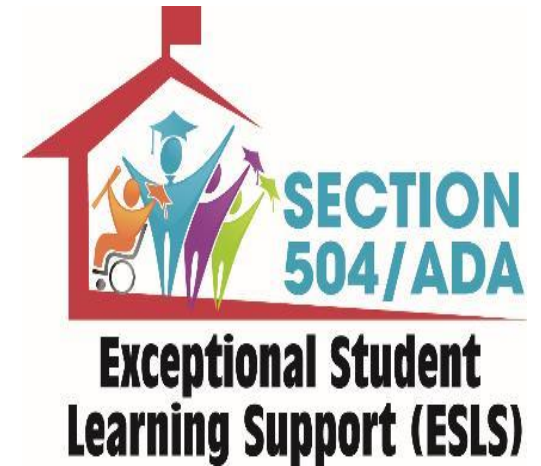
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Parents' Guide to Section 504

*Educating Today's Student to
Succeed in Tomorrow's World*

Section 504: The Law

Section 504 is part of a federal civil rights law known as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This law specifically prohibits discrimination against students with disabilities and guarantees them a free and appropriate public education. Discrimination, as defined in Section 504, is the failure to provide students with disabilities the same opportunity to benefit from education programs, services, or activities as provided to their nondisabled peers. Therefore, schools cannot exclude students with disabilities from facilities, programs, benefits, activities, or services that are provided to students without disabilities. Schools must make sure that all students receive equal access to educational opportunities.

Section 504: Definition of Disability

A student is understood to have a disability as defined by Section 504 if she/he has a mental or physical impairment or a record of impairment. Students regarded as having such an impairment are also understood to have a disability. In addition, the federal government considers students as disabled if they are substantially limited in their major life activities. This includes activities and abilities such as (but not limited to) self-care, breathing, walking, seeing, performing schoolwork, speaking and learning. Some medical impairments may result in the development of an *Individual Health Care Plan* or an *Emergency Care Plan*. These Plans outline the provision of health care prescribed by a doctor.

Section 504: The Eligibility Determination

The 504 Liaison will provide the parent with the *504 Consent for Evaluation forms: Notice of Rights, Parent Input and School Responsibilities*. Once the forms have been completed, a 504 Eligibility Determination meeting will be scheduled. Parents, teachers, and other staff members will meet to discuss all relevant information about the student. The parents' participation in this meeting is critical and helps to establish an accurate picture of the student's needs. Once the 504 Team establishes eligibility, they will then identify what types of support or accommodations are appropriate to meet the student's needs. The accommodations will be described in a document referred to as the Section 504 Accommodation Plan.

Section 504 Accommodation Plan: The Implementation Tool

A Section 504 Accommodation Plan describes the accommodations that the school will provide to support the student's education. A written plan provides clarity and direction to the individuals delivering services or making accommodations. A yearly review of the plan is conducted. Section 504 Accommodation Plans may be updated at any time to reflect changes and recommendations by the 504 Team.



Section 504 Accommodation Plan: Examples of accommodation

- Allow student to take breaks during testing period
- Seat student in close proximity of teacher
- Cue student to stay on task with non-verbal cue
- Student will participate in all school-sponsored field trips and extracurricular activities
- Student is permitted to have bathroom and water access without restriction
- Student's Individualized Health Care PLAN (HCP) and/or Emergency Care Plan will be attached to Section 504/ADA Accommodation Plan
- Allow additional time to complete assigned tasks and assessments
- Student is allowed extra time to transition between classes/activities and across campus

