

Education Programs

Special Accommodations and Services for Students with Special Needs – Section 504

I. Purpose

This policy ensures that the school district provide a full range of special accommodations and services necessary for students with special needs to learn in public education programs and activities, in accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act.

II. Statement of Policy

No person living with a qualified disability will, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity which receives or benefits from federal financial assistance.

The school district has the responsibility to identify and evaluate students who, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need special services, accommodations or programs in order that such students may receive required free, appropriate, public education.

III. General Assurance and Definition

A. For this policy, a student who is protected under Section 504 is one who:

1. Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, including learning; or
2. Has a record of such impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having such impairment.

B. A physical or mental impairment is:

1. Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the flowing body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitourinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or

2. Any mental or psychological disorder, such as cognitive delay, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.
- C. Students may be protected from disability discrimination and be eligible for services under the provisions of Section 504 even though they do not require IEP (individual education plan) services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

IV. Section 504 Procedure

A. Service Coordinator

The director of student support services is the coordinator for Section 504 activities. The district administration will develop processes and procedures for implementing the educational programming accommodations covered by the provisions of Section 504. These procedures will be found in the 504 Handbook, which is available through from the director of student support services.

B. Identification and Referral

The district will annually take appropriate steps to identify and locate every qualified individual who has a disability. Referrals will be received from parents, staff, learners and/or community agencies.

Legal References:

Federal [34 CFR 104] Americans with Disabilities Act
Section 504 – Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Minnesota Rule 3535.2300

Policy
adopted: 7/20/09
Revised: 08/15/16

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273
Edina, Minnesota