

## SECTION 504 PLAN

The multidisciplinary team will develop a Section 504 Plan if a student is determined eligible. Eligibility does not necessarily result in accommodations and services. That determination is made on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, an existing plan or program (such as an Individual Health Plan or Allergy Action Plan) may be sufficient to address the student's needs resulting from the qualifying disability.

A Section 504 Plan may include:

- ◆ A description of the impairment and its impact in the school setting.
- ◆ A list of accommodations designed to meet the individual needs of the student.
- ◆ Identification of the people responsible for implementing the 504 plan, which typically includes teachers and staff.

A parent will be provided with a list of procedural rights, which outlines the steps that may be taken if the parent disagrees with the Section 504 Plan developed by the team.



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BOERNE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Boerne, Texas

# A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SECTION 504

## WHAT IS SECTION 504?

Section 504 is a part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibits discrimination based upon disability.

Section 504 is an anti-discrimination, civil rights statute that requires the needs of students with disabilities to be met as adequately as the needs of the non-disabled are met.

Public Schools have the duty to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all qualified disabled students.

Under Section 504, no qualified student with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any district program, including non-academic services and extracurricular activities.

Section 504 differs from the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in that its purpose is to prevent discrimination against disabled students. Alternatively, IDEA provides special education services to students with specific categories of disabilities beyond what is provided to students without disabilities.

## WHAT IS A "DISABILITY" UNDER SECTION 504 AND HOW ARE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IDENTIFIED?

Section 504 defines "disability" as a physical or mental condition which substantially limits or impairs a major life activity such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, focusing, concentrating, or learning (this is not an exhaustive list).

## WHAT ARE MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITIES?

The list of major life activities is very broad and includes basic activities that most people can perform with little or no difficulty.

Examples:

- ◆ Caring for one's self
- ◆ Performing manual task
- ◆ Seeing ◆ Speaking
- ◆ Hearing ◆ Breathing
- ◆ Eating ◆ Learning
- ◆ Sleeping ◆ Reading
- ◆ Walking ◆ Concentrating
- ◆ Standing ◆ Thinking
- ◆ Lifting ◆ Communicating
- ◆ Bending ◆ Working

Also includes major bodily functions:

- ◆ Normal cell growth
- ◆ Immune System ◆ Digestive
- ◆ Brain ◆ Bowel
- ◆ Respiratory ◆ Bladder
- ◆ Circulatory ◆ Neurological
- ◆ Endocrine ◆ Reproductive

## SECTION 504 REFERRAL

The process under Section 504 begins with a referral. The school district will take measures to identify and locate every student with a disability. If a staff member believes that your child may have a qualifying disability, he/she will make a referral for a 504 evaluation. A parent or guardian may also request a 504 evaluation for a student by notifying the student's teacher, principal, or 504 coordinator. Such a request is best made in writing.

