

# Irving Independent School District

## Section 504

### What is Section 504?

It is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which requires that:

No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States...shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...

Student Placement in Elementary and  
Secondary Schools and Section 504 and  
Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act

### Where to find the Section 504 Federal Guidelines:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>

### Facts

Under 504, there is no list of “approved” disabling conditions. A “disabled person” is simply one who: has a physical or mental impairment, which **substantially limits** one or more **major life activities**, has record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment.

### Remember

Any “physical or mental impairment” can qualify a child under 504, as long as that impairment substantially limits a “major life activity.”

A “major life activity” means functions such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, breathing, **learning**, and working. “Major life activities” are those that humans generally perform to live full independent lives.

### Easy guidelines

Section 504 should be an equalizer, a tool that levels the playing field. Section 504 is not meant to maximize potential, but to help disabled students become successful.

### Academic Need –

Does the student need assistance in order to be successful academically?

### Physical Need –

Does the student need assistance to get to and from school? Does the student need assistance to get to and from his/her classes?

### A few tips...

Accommodation plans should: focus on outcomes  
be easy for teachers to understand and implement  
be simple, specific, practical, and doable

Resources: José Villaseñor CESD '06 Fall Southwest 504 Conference  
Section 504 District Coordinator CESD '02 Fall Southwest 504 Conference Irving Independent School District Section 504  
Compliance Advisory, July 2003

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