

Irving Independent School District
Section 504

Guidelines

What is Section 504?

Under Section 504 in the public schools, we look for students with physical or mental impairments which substantially limit their major life activities in a way that impacts their functioning in the school setting to the point of needing an individualized and systematic plan of accommodations and services.

Council of Educators for Students with Disabilities
RICHARDS LINDSAY & MARTÍN, L.L.P.

Where to find the Section 504 Federal Guidelines:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/placpub.html>

Facts

Section 504 has 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.

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 or Medical Need

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

ADA Amendment of 2009

The legislative purpose of the ADA Amendments

The findings and purposes section of the Act...make it easier to qualify a student for Section 504.

Students may now qualify for Section 504 under “monitor status,” which means they do not exhibit a need for an accommodation plan. They will have residual §504 rights, but will receive no §504 accommodation or service plan.

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Resources:
CESD '12 Fall Southwest 504 Conference
CESD '13 Fall Southwest 504 Conference
CESD '14 Fall Southwest 504 Conference
Dept. of Education – ed.gov