

504 Plans



Background:

Section 504 of the **1973 Rehabilitation Act** was the first disability civil rights law to be enacted in the United States.

It prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in programs that receive federal financial assistance, and set the stage for enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

SLPS 504 Process:

- Families or the school can request a 504 plan through the district 504 coordinator or the school's 504 liaison (school nurse).
- Generally, the school nurse will lead the 504 meetings.
- The nurse will be responsible for notifying the parent, completing all necessary paperwork, inviting attendees to the meetings and completing the appropriate accommodations for the meetings.

504 Plan:

A 504 is the framework for how the school will support a student with a disability and remove barriers to learning. The goal is to give the student equal access to school.

Who should be considered for a 504?

1. Any student whose guardian requests a 504 evaluation
2. Any student who MAY have a Major Life Activity limited by a disability
3. Any student who MAY have a Major Bodily Function limited by a disability

Accommodations:

- The 504 plan is a list of specific responsibilities that the school or district agrees to be legally held accountable for providing.
- Accommodations don't change what students learn, but how they learn. The goal is to remove barriers.
- For every accommodation there should be a responsible party listed.
- Example accommodations may include: Changes to student seating, changes to restroom breaks, shifts in how a student takes notes.

IEP vs 504

IEP: In general, an IEP (Individualized Education Program) is granted to students who have a disability that substantially limits their ability to learn. An IEP results in a modified instructional plan, which may include a change in educational goals, a change in time spent in a general education setting, or accommodations made to how educational instruction is delivered.

504: In general, a 504 is granted to students who have a disability that substantially limits their access to learning. A 504 results in a plan of specific accommodations and/or adjustments to the learning environment that allow a student to receive the same general education as their non-disabled peers.

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