

ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
504 NOTIFICATION OF PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS

Section 504 of the rehabilitation Act of 1973 holds a unique place within federal laws dealing with education. It is in fact a law that deals with the protection of people with disabilities. The law was enacted prior to the more widely known law referred to as IDEA or in the case of Massachusetts state special education law (formerly known as Chapter 766), or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

An eligible student under Section 504 is a student who (a) has, (b) has a record of having, or (c) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity such as learning, self-care, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and performing manual tasks. Additional activities include but are not limited to: reading, thinking, concentrating, sleeping, bowel/bladder functions, eating and other major life activities.

Parent/Student Rights Under Section 504:

You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her handicapping conditions.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-handicapped students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school-related activities.
5. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided to non-handicapped students.
6. Have your child receive special education and related services if s/he is found to be eligible under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
7. Have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and placement options.
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternate placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.

9. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
10. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, education program, and placement.
11. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
12. A response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
13. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of a right to a hearing.
14. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. You and the student may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you (at private expense). In order to request an impartial hearing, please contact:

Dr. Matthew Janger
Arlington High School
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

15. You have the right to appeal the decision of the impartial hearing officer to a court of competent jurisdiction. Hearing requests must be made to:

United States Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office
33 Arch Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02110-1491
1-617-289-0135