

WHAT IS SECTION 504?

RECENT UPDATES, EFFECTIVE JULY 8, 2024, MODERNIZE, CLARIFY, AND STRENGTHEN REGULATIONS CONSISTENT WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in programs that receive federal financial assistance

Programs must provide a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE) to all students, including those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.



THE 504 PROCESS

School districts are responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating students who may need accommodations.



1 Referral

A parent, guardian, or school staff member who suspects a student may have a disability requiring accommodations or related services generates a referral for evaluation.



2 Evaluation

Specific evaluations may be required. Information, such as teacher reports, grades, attendance, health data, and classroom participation and performance may also be considered.



3 Eligibility

When impairment substantially limits one or more major life activity, a plan providing accommodations under Section 504 is developed.



DEFINITIONS

Physical or Mental impairment

Include but are not limited to physiological disorders or conditions, cosmetic disfigurement, anatomical loss, as well as mental or psychological disorders.



Major life activities

These include but are not limited to hearing, speaking, moving, caring for oneself, communicating, concentrating, and others.

Functions of the body's systems

Including bowel, bladder, brain, digestive, immune, endocrine, respiratory, neurological, and others, are also major life activities under the law.

