

# Section 504 Coordination

Section 504 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is a civil rights law that prohibits the discrimination based on disability. The law applies to public elementary and secondary schools and other federally funded institutions. Under Section 504, denying a disabled student a free appropriate public education constitutes disability discrimination.

## How and when would a student qualify as a disabled student under Section 504?

A school-aged student is considered disabled under Section 504 if the student:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- Major life activities include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.
- Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

## How does a student get referred for a Section 504 Evaluation?

Any person can refer a student for eligibility under Section 504. Parents, guardians, and school staff should refer a student for an eligibility meeting with a team, if they know or suspect that, due to a physical or mental impairment, a student needs accommodations to participate in or benefit from an American Renaissance School's educational program.

*Medical documentation from your child's pediatrician and/ or licensed therapist with diagnosis is also needed to assist with the team's decision(s).*

## What is a Section 504 plan?

A 504 plan is a written plan that describes the educational and related aids and services that a district determines a student needs to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education. The content of a 504 plan may change within a school year or between school years as a student's needs and services change. For a student whose only disability is a

life-threatening health condition, an individual health plan or nursing care plan may serve as the student's 504 plan. A district must provide the services identified in a student's 504 plan.

More information about student rights under Section 504 are outlined on the **Notice of Parent/Guardian and Student Rights for Section 504**.

## Questions?

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