



Westford Public Schools

Section 504

Section 504

Section 504 regulations require school districts to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. This law prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. The law provides qualified disabled students with appropriate educational accommodations and/or services designed to meet the individual needs of the student to the same extent as the needs of students without disabilities.

Under Section 504, a student with a disability is protected against discrimination whether or not they are entitled to special education or related services. In order to be eligible for a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, a student must have a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity and requires accommodations or modifications to provide the student with FAPE.

Eligibility:

For parents, guardians or caretakers who believe their student may qualify under Section 504, based on a disability that substantially limits a major life function, please contact the Assistant Principal at your student's school.

Notice of Parents'/Guardians' and Students' Rights Under Section 504

Parents/Guardians have the following rights:

- To receive a copy of this notice when the District takes any action regarding the identification, evaluation, and placement of a student pursuant to Section 504;
 - To examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding their child's identification, evaluation, and educational placement;
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- To request an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement with participation by you and representation by counsel (at private expense). In order to request an impartial hearing, please contact the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator listed below; and
 - To appeal the decision of the impartial hearing officer to a court of competent jurisdiction.

The School-based Section 504 Liaison is:

Assistant Principal

The parents' and student's right to an impartial hearing is available at the Massachusetts Bureau of Special Education Appeals, Division of Administrative Law Appeals, One Congress Street, 11th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02114; (617) 626-7200.

Under Section 504, the District is required to designate at least one person to coordinate and carry out the District's efforts to comply with Section 504 and Title II. Westford Public Schools has designated 504/ADA for the District as listed below. If you have questions or concerns about Section 504, please contact your student's school for the Assistant Principal's contact information. The District's 504 Coordinator is:

Courtney L. Moran, Director of Pupil Services
23 Depot Street, Westford, Massachusetts 01886
cmoran@westfordk12.us
(978) 692-5560 x 2111

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