

## What are Accommodations Under 504?

Accommodations must achieve meaningful equal opportunity, must consider the functional limitations of the person and alternative methods of performance. Some examples could include (but are not limited to) the following: modified testing, preferential seating, taped textbooks, readers, tailoring homework assignments.

## What if I Disagree with the 504 Plan or Any of Its Components?

If you disagree with the 504 plan you can:

1. Express your views at the meeting and suggest alternatives
2. You can refuse to sign the plan
3. You can contact your school site 504 Coordinator and ask for him/her to review the plan with you.

## DEFINITIONS

**Individual with disabilities, ...** “any individual who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person’s major life activities; has record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.” (29 U.S.C. Sec. 706(8))

**Physical or mental impairment...** (A) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitor-urinary; hermic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; on (B) any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. (34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 104.3)

**Major life activities...** “functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working,” (34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 104.3)

**Has a record of such impairment...** “has a history of, or has been classified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.”(34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 104.3)

**Is regarded as having an impairment...** “(A) has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit major life activities but is treated by a recipient as constituting such a limitation; (B) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others toward such impairment; or has none of the impairments defined but is treated by a recipient as having such an impairment.”

## FAQ

# Section 504 Accommodation Plan

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **Twin Rivers Unified School District**

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## What is a 504 Plan?

A 504 Accommodation Plan may be developed for a student who is NOT enrolled in special education but who requires health related or other services during the day.

A 504 Plan is a legal document falling under the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is designed to plan a program of instructional services to assist students with disabilities who are in a general educational setting. A 504 plan is not an Individualized Education Program (IEP) as is required for special education students. However, a student moving from a special educational placement could be placed under a 504 plan.

## What is a Disability Under 504?

An individual is determined to have a disability if she/he:

- Has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks)
- Has a record of such impairment, or
- Is regarded as having such an impairment

This could mean that a student who has an Attention Deficit Disorder or some other disability and does not qualify for special education services may still be entitled to accommodations or other services in general education under Section 504.

## What is the Process for Placing a Student on a 504 Plan?

There are essentially four steps:

1. Student is referred by teacher, support staff, parent/guardian, physician, or therapist initially to the Student Study Team.
2. The Student Study Team makes the referral to the 504 Plan team.
3. A 504 plan meeting is held and a plan developed if student qualifies.
4. A review date is set.

## How is 504 Plan Similar to an IEP?

- Evaluation
- Accommodations on standard testing if needed
- Related services to assist in accessing general education
- Procedural Safeguard in place

## How is a 504 Plan Different from an IEP?

- No progress reporting
- Limited discipline protection
  - No Stay put

(See Notice of Procedural Safeguards)