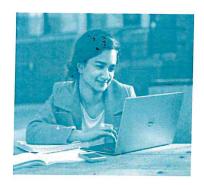
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504 CONTACTS AT EACH SCHOOL

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LAWRENCE COUNTY SCHOOLS LAWRENCE COUNTY, TN

Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Child Find

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights statute which provides: "No otherwise qualified individual with handicaps in the United States shall solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

29USC §794.



Section 504 in Schools

What is Section 504?

Section 504 is a federal civil rights law that is designed to eliminate disability discrimination in programs and activities that receive federal funds. Since all public school districts receive federal funds, all public school districts must comply with Section 504. Under Section 504, denying a disabled student a free appropriate public education (FAPE) constitutes disability discrimination.



Who is a "qualified" individual with a disability?

For elementary and secondary education programs, Section 504 regulations define a qualified individual as one who is: (a) of an age during which non-disabled individuals are provided with educational services; (b) of any age during which it is mandatory under State law to provide such services to disabled individuals; or (c) entitled to FAPE under IDEA. 34 CFR § 104.3 (l).

SECTION 504 ELIGIBILITY

A student is eligible under Section 504 if the student:

- Has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- Has a record of such impairment.
- Is regarded as having such an impairment.



Functions such as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, caring for oneself, and performing manual tasks are considered to be <u>major life</u>
activities.

The disability only needs to substantially limit *one major life activity* in order for the student to be eligible.

Student Referrals for Section 504

Parents, physicians, teachers, RTI coordinators, and school administrators may refer any student for an evaluation who needs (or is believed to need) special services because of a disability. Any person wishing to refer a student for an evaluation may obtain a written referral form from the 504 designee. The designee will assist the parent and the school staff in collecting appropriate student data and will provide parents with appropriate notification. The 504 designee will present these written requests and supportive data to the Section 504 committee for determination of educational need.



Educational need is defined as a substantial limitation on learning demonstrated by a serious academic deficit and/or serious behavior problems resulting from a student's disability and not from other causes.