

Section 504 Overview for Parents



Presented by Maggie Bush
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Three federal laws guarantee the rights of students with disabilities:

1. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
2. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504

- Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all school programs and activities in public schools receiving federal funding
- Helps remove barriers to learning to “level the playing field”
- Assures access to educational services and the learning process that is equal to that given to students who do not have disabilities



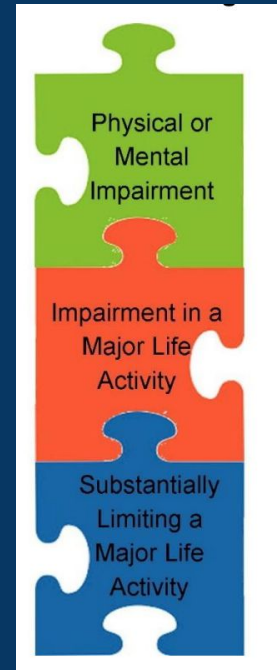
Who is protected under Section 504?

To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to:

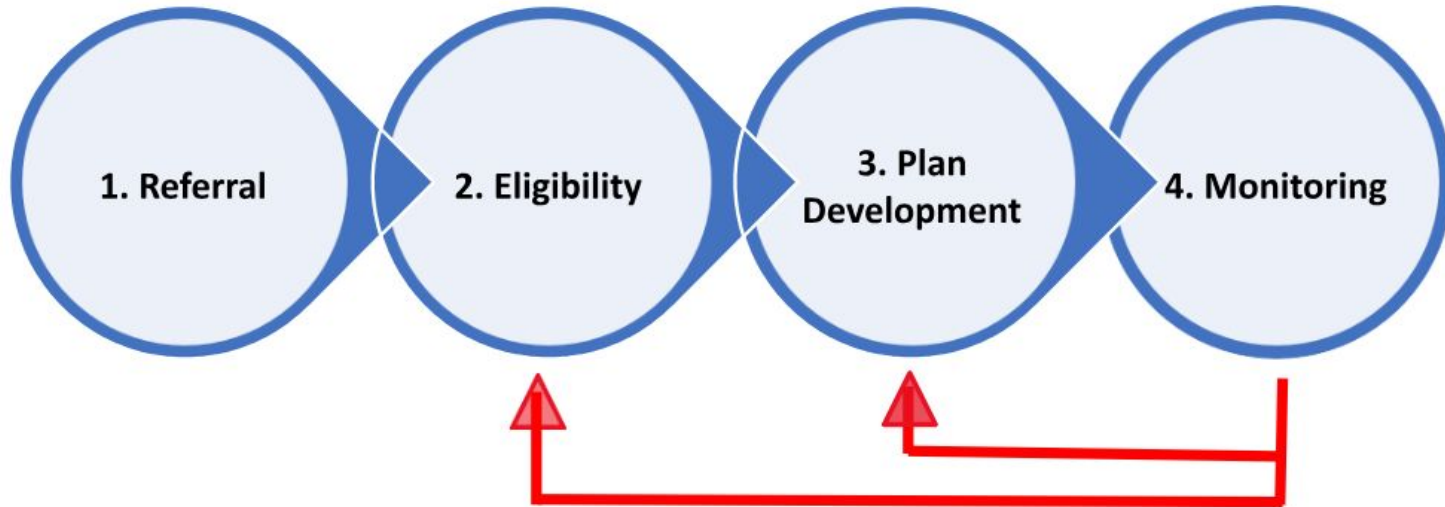
- 1) Have a **physical or mental impairment** that **substantially limits** one or more **major life activities**, or
- 2) Have a record of such an impairment, or
- 3) Be regarded as having such an impairment

Example physical/mental impairments:

Diabetes, ADHD, anxiety, depression, arthritis, asthma, hearing impairment, leukemia, diabetes, epilepsy, learning disability, allergies, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, bipolar disorder, tourette's syndrome, cancer, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, allergies, multiple sclerosis, visual impairment, chronic disease, autism, schizophrenia, stuttering/speech impairment



The NCCA Section 504 Process



504 Plan

- A 504 Plan includes accommodations and modifications needed to provide equal access to curriculum and educational services
- All students at NCCA have access to the many accommodations that are inherent in the online educational setting
- It may be necessary for a Learning Coach to provide or support certain accommodations
- Example accommodations: extended time, text read aloud, reduced assignments, allow extra response time, multiple test sessions, copy of notes, reduce number of items per page, chunk assignments, separate setting for testing, enlarged print, visual aids, oral assessments

FAQs



What should I do if I believe my child has a disability or medical condition and may require a 504 plan?

Contact the 504 coordinator for your child's grade. You will be asked to fill out a 504 referral form. After you fill out this form, you will be contacted about the referral. Be prepared to describe your concerns about your student's disability and the impact it is having on them within the school setting.

Can my child be placed on a 504 plan without my knowledge?

Eligibility consideration under Section 504 **cannot** be completed without parental knowledge.

Parents are entitled to the following procedural safeguards under Section 504:

- Notice of any action related to the identification of their child as a student with a disability
- Notice regarding any evaluation of their child to determine eligibility under Section 504
- Notice regarding the accommodations plan or placement for their child under Section 504
- Notice regarding changes in the identification, evaluation, or placement of their child
- An opportunity to review records relevant to their child's identification, evaluation, or placement under Section 504
- An impartial hearing to contest a school decision regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of their child, with opportunity for participation by the parent with or without representation by counsel
- An opportunity for an impartial review of the impartial hearing officer's decision

What is the difference between an IEP and a 504 Plan?

- For a student to receive an IEP the student must meet the eligibility criteria for one of the 14 recognized disability categories, educational performance must be adversely affected by the disability, and the student must be in need of specially designed instruction
- Section 504 is not limited to specific disability categories and does not require evidence that the disability adversely affects the student's educational performance
- 504 plans do not provide specialized instruction and are instead focused on "leveling the playing field" by providing accommodations and removing barriers in a general education environment

My student has a 504 plan from a different school. Now that my student attends NCCA, will NCCA implement the previous 504 plan?

Yes. Keep in mind that some accommodations are not applicable in the virtual setting. If changes to the 504 plan need to be made, please reach out to your child's 504 Coordinator.

Who decides whether a student is qualified and eligible for services under Section 504?

According to the federal regulations [34 C.F.R. §104.35(c)(3)], placement decisions should be made “by a group of persons who are knowledgeable about the child, understand the meaning of the evaluation data, understand placement options, least restrictive environment requirements and comparable facilities”. A 504 Team will typically consist of the 504 Coordinator, teachers, and the parent(s). Parents are encouraged to work collaboratively with the 504 team and contribute any information they have to support a thorough understanding of their child’s needs such as doctor’s reports, outside clinical evaluations, observations in the home, etc.

Does a medical diagnosis automatically mean a student can receive services under Section 504?

No. A medical diagnosis does not automatically mean a student can receive services under Section 504. The diagnosed condition must cause a substantial limitation on the student's ability to learn or another major life activity/major bodily function.

What should I do if 504 plan accommodations are not being provided to my child?

Reach out to your child's teachers directly about the accommodations that are not being implemented. If you have additional concerns or questions regarding the implementation of your child's 504 plan, reach out to the 504 Coordinator for your child.

504 Coordinators at NCCA

- District: Maggie Bush (mbush@myncca.com)
- K-5th grade: Janice Harris (jharris@myncca.com)
- K-5th grade: Simone Griffin (sgriffin@myncca.com)
- 6th grade: Candi Rhinehart (crhinehart@myncca.com)
- 7th grade: Holly Noel (hnoel@myncca.com)
- 8th grade: Amber Anzivino (aanzivino@myncca.com)
- 9th-12th grade: Ryan Hinkleman (rhinkleman@myncca.com)

504 Information

[NCCA Parent's Guide to Section 504](#) (one page guide)

[NCCA Section 504](#) (Website Link)

Questions?

