

## What is Section 504?

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal civil rights statute that protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability.

### Eligibility:

1. Has a physical or mental impairment that **substantially limits** one or more major life activities as compared to his/her average peer;
2. Has a record of such in impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having such impairment.

The following process helps in determination of eligibility and proper placement of students covered under Section 504:

- **Referral-** referrals will typically initiate with the school's I&RS committee, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators and sometimes students may initiate a referral;
- **Review-** The 504 Eligibility Committee reviews the referral and supporting documentation such as standardized tests, data provided by health care professional, medical doctor, teacher and parent input, discipline records etc. in order to make a determination as to whether there is a substantial impact on one or more major life activities, which includes but is not limited to caring for oneself, speaking, sleeping sitting, thinking, walking, learning, standing, communicating, seeing, breathing, concentrating, eating, reading.  
**Note:** Parents are notified of meetings, however may elect not to be present, nor have to be present in order to determine eligibility. Parents/guardians will be notified in writing once a determination has been made.
- **Development of 504 Accommodation Plan if found eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act-** Parents/guardians are provided with a copy of the student's 504 Accommodation Plan and rights under Section 504.
- **Accommodations-** Accommodations are implemented as outlined in the 504 Plan.
- **Annual Review-** the 504 Accommodation Plan will be reviewed annually in order to determine continued eligibility.

