

Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Parent/Student Rights, Identification, Evaluation and Placement

(Site: Please give a copy of this page to each parent of a 504 student) (Parents: Please keep this explanation for future reference)

The following is a description of the rights granted by Federal law to students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning decisions about your child, and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. To become eligible for services and protection against discrimination on the basis of disability under Section 504, a student must be determined, as a result of an evaluation, to have a "physical or mental impairment" that "substantially limits one or more major life activities or bodily function." (29USC 706(8)(B).

Parents or legal guardians have the right to the following:

The right to have all information in the parent/guardian's native language or other primary mode of communication.

The right to have the child receive a free appropriate public education, which includes the right of the child to be educated with students without disabilities to the maximum extent possible.

The right to have the child provided an equal opportunity to participate in school programs and extracurricular activities sponsored by the school.

The right to receive notice when the District is considering a process of identification, evaluation, or educational change of placement

The right to examine relevant records regarding the child's education, including the right to obtain copies of education records at reasonable cost (if the cost would deny the parent/guardian access it will be waived).

The right to amend educational records if you believe information contained in the record is inaccurate or misleading. If the District refuses to amend, you have the right to request a hearing.

The right to have an educational evaluation and placement decisions made, based on information from a variety of sources and by persons who know the needs of the student, meaning of evaluation data, and placement options.

The right to periodic re-evaluation, and an evaluation before any significant change in placement

The right to appeal the decision of the team regarding qualification, placement, or program

- Appeals begin with the principal to attempt to mediate site disagreements.
- If issues cannot be resolved at the site level, an appeal form would be completed at the site and sent to the Carol Coburn, Director of Academic Services. The district official will schedule a meeting with the parent/guardian within 5 school days. The district contact number is (760) 246-8691.
- If an agreement is not reached, the parent can request an impartial hearing with a mediator from outside the district. You will be an active participant. You have the right to be represented by counsel in the impartial hearing process. You have the right to appeal the impartial hearing officer's decision.
- Parents have the right to appeal directly to the Office of Civil Rights.

The right to appeal the decision of the impartial hearing officer may be made to:

Office of Civil Rights, US Department of Education Old Federal Building, 09-9010 50 United Nations Plaza, Room 239 San Francisco, CA 94102—4102T (Phone 415-437-7700)