

## How Does a Student Qualify?

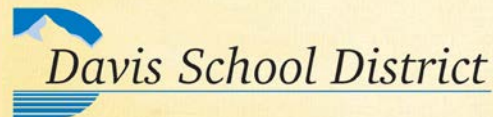
Remember, having a disability does not automatically qualify a student for SPED or 504.

Both programs have a thorough evaluation process that may include formal and informal testing, educational history observations, interventions and progress monitoring. It is the responsibility of a team at each school (which includes various school personnel familiar with the student and programs, parents, and the student if appropriate) to make a determination if a student qualifies for a 504 Plan or an IEP.

To begin the process, families should:

- Give a written request for evaluation to the school
- Meet with personnel to discuss your concerns and desires
- Be prepared to provide copies of medical documentation if appropriate
- Be willing to negotiate

Much more information is available!  
Please ask about our programs at each school, or contact the district office in one of the ways listed below.



Ph 801-402-5169  
Fx 801-402-5189

70 E. 100 N.  
Farmington, UT 84025

[www.davis.k12.ut.us/dsd/specialed](http://www.davis.k12.ut.us/dsd/specialed)  
[www.davis.k12.ut.us/dsd/504](http://www.davis.k12.ut.us/dsd/504)

## Frequently Asked Questions about Special Education and 504

Davis School  
District

## What are these Programs?

**Section 504** comes from the Americans with Disabilities Act, and prohibits discrimination against a person because of their disability. It provides for accommodations and some related services in the regular education environment. The act states that in order to qualify for help in school, a student must have a disability that substantially limits a major life activity and has an effect on their education.

**Special Education (SPED)** comes from the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Students who qualify (and have parent consent) will be placed on an Individualized Education Program (IEP). An IEP provides not only accommodations, but also goals and special education services. The main difference between 504 and SPED is that SPED is for students who have a greater need for specialized instruction; that is, instruction different from the regular classroom (which may include resource, learning centers, or functional skills classes). It is generally a more restrictive placement than a 504 plan, but typically provides more support.

## What Services are Available?

**Accommodations:** Various accommodations are available under both programs. Some common ones may include adjusted time for responses, assignments, and testing; changes in transition times or routes; assistance in accessing certain programs; etc. Accommodations are given based on the student's specific needs in the educational setting. Thus, they are determined by the team at the school. While suggestions may be gathered from medical professionals, books, friends, the internet, etc., it is appropriate to begin with a manageable amount of reasonable accommodations so we can track their effectiveness and be as non-invasive as possible. Changes can be made as needed.

**Classes:** SPED services (but not 504) offer specialized instruction depending on student need and team decision. These classes may include resource, learning centers, or functional skills.

**Related Services:** In order to help students access their education, other services that may be available through both programs include speech, occupational and physical therapy, adapted PE, psych, adult assistance, behavior, transportation, etc. These services are a team decision based on individual needs.

## How Long do Services Last?

For both programs, while a student's disability/condition may never go away, the need for services might. Our goal is for students to become as independent as possible. 504 law states that a periodic review of eligibility is necessary; SPED law requires it every three years.

SPED has additional services that can last through age 21 (past the traditional graduation age of 18). These services may be given based on individual needs. There are no SPED services in colleges.

Because 504 is an anti-discrimination law, its services are available in colleges and in the workplace. However, these places may require different documentation and offer different services than public schools. Consult them individually for more details.

*Our goal is for students to become as independent as possible.*