

*MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521
Orig. 1995 Rev. 2013, 2017, 2020
Adopted January 5th, 2020*

521 STUDENT DISABILITY NONDISCRIMINATION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect disabled students from discrimination on the basis of disability and to identify and evaluate learners who, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), need services, accommodations, or programs in order that such learners may receive a free appropriate public education.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Disabled students who meet the criteria of Paragraph C. below are protected from discrimination on the basis of a disability.
- B The responsibility of the school district is to identify and evaluate learners who, within the intent of Section 504, need services, accommodations, or programs in order that such learners may receive a free appropriate public education.
- C. For this policy, a learner who is protected under Section 504 is one who:
 - 1. has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities; or
 - 2. has a record of such an impairment; or
 - 3. is regarded as having such an impairment.
- D. Learners may be protected from disability discrimination and be eligible for services, accommodations, or programs under the provisions of Section 504 even though they are not eligible for special education pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

III. COORDINATOR

Persons who have questions or comments should contact Wilshire Park Principal, Kari Page; address - 3600 Highcrest Rd., St. Anthony, MN 55418; telephone number - 612-706-1201. This person is the school district's Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504 coordinator.

IV. GRIEVANCE REPORTING PROCEDURE FOR COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION

The following grievance procedure applies to claims of sex, disability, and racial discrimination:

A. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of unlawful discrimination or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute unlawful discrimination shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. The complaint must be filed within 90 calendar days of the alleged violation.

B. The Human Rights Officer is responsible for receiving oral or written complaints of unlawful discrimination toward an employee or student. However, nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting unlawful discrimination toward an employee or student directly with the Human Rights Officer, the school board or other school district official.

C. The school board hereby designates Wendy Webster 3301 Silver Lake Road, St. Anthony, MN 55418 612-706-1170 wwebster@isd282.org as the school district Human Rights Officer(s) to receive reports, complaints, or grievances of unlawful discrimination. If the complaint involves a Human Rights Officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the Superintendent.

D. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Human Rights Officer shall immediately notify the superintendent. If the superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the Human Rights Officer shall immediately notify the school board.

E. The Human Rights Officer may request but not insist upon a written complaint. Alternative means of filing a complaint, such as through a personal interview or by tape recording, shall be made available upon request for qualified persons with a disability. If the complaint is oral, it shall be reduced to writing within 24 hours and forwarded to the superintendent. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. The school district encourages the reporting party to complete the complaint form for written complaints. It is available from the principal of each building or the school district office.

F. The school district shall respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

TITLE IX COORDINATOR

Wendy Webster
3303 33rd Ave NE
St. Anthony, MN 55418
612-706-1170
wwebster@isd282.org

SECTION 504 COORDINATOR

Kari Page
3600 Highcrest Rd NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-706-1201
kpage@isd282.org

RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse, which may include filing charges with the agencies listed below or initiating action in state or federal court.

Claims of discrimination may also be pursued through the following agencies where appropriate:

Office for Civil Rights

Chicago Office
U.S. Department of Education
John C. Kluczynski Federal Building
230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor

Chicago, IL 60604
Telephone: 312-730-1560
Facsimile: (312) 730-1576
Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov

Minnesota Department of Human Rights

Griggs Midway Building
540 Fairview Avenue North, Suite 201
St. Paul, MN 55104
Telephone: 1-800-657-3704 or (651) 539-1100
Email: Info.mdhr@state.mn.us

For complaints of employment discrimination:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Towle Building
330 South 2nd Avenue, Suite 720
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Telephone: (612) 552-7306
Fax: (612) 335-4066
TTY: 1-800-669-4000
ASL Video Phone: 1-844-234-5122

This document provides general information and is not to be a substitute for legal advice. Changes in the law, including timelines for filing a complaint, may affect your rights.

Legal References:

34 C.F.R. Section 104.7(b) (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)
34 C.F.R. Section 106.8(b) (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)

Resources:

Office for Civil Rights

Chicago Office
U.S. Department of Education
John C. Kluczynski Federal Building
230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
Telephone: 312-730-1560
Facsimile: (312) 730-1576
Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov

Reading Room, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/publications.html>

Legal References: Pub. L. 110-325, 122 Stat. 3553 (ADA Amendments Act of 2008, § 7)
29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)
34 C.F.R. Part 104 (Section 504 Implementing Regulations)
34 C.F.R. Section 104.7(b) (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)
34 C.F.R. Section 106.8(b) (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination)