

Education Programs

Special Accommodations and Services for Students with Special Needs – Section 504

I. Purpose

This policy ensures that the school district provide a full range of special accommodations and services necessary for students with special needs to learn in public education programs and activities, in accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

II. Statement of Policy

- A. No person living with a qualified disability will, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity which receives or benefits from federal financial assistance.
- B. The school district has the responsibility to identify and evaluate students who, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, need special services, accommodations or programs in order that such students may receive required free, appropriate, public education.
- C. This policy applies to all qualified individuals who:
 - 1. are enrolled in an Edina Public Schools;
 - 2. are enrolled in a non-public educational institution within the District Boundaries of Edina Public Schools; or
 - 3. are homeless, but found within the District Boundaries of Edina Public Schools, and who are eligible to attend an Edina Public Schools.
- D. A qualified individual may be eligible for Section 504 services, accommodations or programs even though they are not eligible for special education pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

III. General Assurance and Definition

- A. For this policy, the term “qualified individuals” means a student who:
 - 1. has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity, including learning; or

2. has a record of such impairment; or
3. is regarded as having such impairment, and
4. who is of the age for which non-disabled persons are provided educational services or
5. who is of an age for which it is mandatory under state law to provide such services to disabled individuals; or
6. who is required to receive a free appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA or Special Education).

B. For this policy, the term "Section 504" means Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, codified at 29 United States Code 794.

IV. Section 504 Procedure

A. Service Coordinator

The director of student support services or their designee is the coordinator for Section 504 activities.. The district administration will develop processes and procedures for implementing the educational programming accommodations covered by the provisions of Section 504. These procedures will be found in the 504 Handbook, which is available on the district website.

B. Identification and Referral

The district will annually take appropriate steps to identify and locate every qualified individual who has a disability. Referrals will be received from parents, staff, learners and/or community agencies.

Legal References:

Federal [34 CFR 104] Americans with Disabilities Act
Section 504 – Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Minnesota Rule 3535.2300

Policy
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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273
Edina, Minnesota