

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

SERIES 5000: STUDENTS
POLICY 5125

**STUDENTS AND SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AND
TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. Similarly, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“Title II” or “ADA”) prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability by state and local governments. To be protected under Section 504 and the ADA (collectively “Section 504/ADA”) an individual must (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) have a record of such an impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such an impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504/ADA, the Darien Public Schools (the “District”) recognize a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel, students, parents and members of the public who participate in school sponsored programs. In this regard, the District prohibits discrimination against any person with a disability in any of the programs operated by the school system.

The District has specific responsibilities under Section 504 to identify, evaluate and provide an educational placement for students who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. The District’s obligation includes providing access to free appropriate public education (“FAPE”) for students determined to be eligible under Section 504/ADA. Under Section 504, FAPE is defined as the provision of regular or special education and related services that are designed to meet the individual educational needs of a student with a disability as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, and that are provided without cost (except for fees imposed on nondisabled students/parents).

If the parent or guardian of a student disagrees with the decisions made by the professional staff of the District with respect to the identification, evaluation, and/or educational placement of the student, a parent/guardian has a right to request an impartial due process hearing.

In addition, a student or the parent/guardian of a student may also file an internal grievance/complaint on these issues or any other type of discrimination on the basis of disability by or within the District by utilizing the grievance/complaint procedures outlined in the Administrative Regulations regarding Students and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act associated with this policy, and/or may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (“OCR”):

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office
U.S. Department of Education
8th Floor
5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109- 3921
(617) 289-0111

Anyone who wishes to file a complaint, or who has questions or concerns about this policy, should contact the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, the Section 504 Coordinator for the Darien Public Schools, at 203-656-7444.

Legal References: 29 U.S.C. § § 705, 794
 34 C.F.R. § 104
 42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*
 28 C.F.R. Part 35

Protecting Students with Disabilities, Frequently Asked Questions About Section 504 and the Education of Children with Disabilities, Office for Civil Rights (March 17, 2011), available at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>

Dear Colleague Letter, United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (January 19, 2012)

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION: January 13, 2015
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Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

SERIES 5000: STUDENTS
POLICY R-5125

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING STUDENTS
AND SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

The Darien Board of Education Section 504/ADAGrievance/Complaint Procedures Regarding
Discrimination Against Students on the Basis of Disability

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“Title II” or “ADA”) (collectively, “Section 504/ADA”) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. For the purposes of Section 504/ADA, the term “disability” with respect to an individual means: (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (b) a record of such an impairment; or (c) being regarded as having such an impairment.

I. Definitions

Free appropriate public education (FAPE): for purposes of Section 504, refers to the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet individual educational needs of students with disabilities as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, that are provided without cost (except for fees imposed on nondisabled students/parents), and is based upon adherence to procedures that satisfy the Section 504 requirements pertaining to educational setting, evaluation and placement, and procedural safeguards.

Major life activities: include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating and working. A major life activity also includes the operation of a major bodily function such as the functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive systems. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

Mitigating Measures: include, but are not limited to (a) medication, medical supplies, equipment, appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics including limbs and devices, hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; (b) use of assistive technology; (c) reasonable modifications or auxiliary

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

aids or services; (d) learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications; or (e) psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

Physical or Mental Impairment: is a) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems, such as: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory, (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, hemic lymphatic, skin, and endocrine b) any mental or psychological disorder, intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities; or (c) an impairment that is episodic or in remission if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active. Physical or mental impairment includes, but is not limited to, contagious and noncontagious diseases and conditions such as the following: orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, and cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, intellectual disability, emotional illness, dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), tuberculosis, drug addiction, and alcoholism. .

II. Procedures for Grievances/Complaints Alleging Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

- A. Any eligible person, including any student, parent/guardian, staff member or other employee who feels that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of disability (including differential treatment, harassment and retaliation) may submit a written complaint to the district's designated Section 504/ADA Coordinator (see contact information below) within thirty (30) school days of the alleged occurrence. Complaints by students and/or parents/guardians alleging discrimination involving students will be investigated under these procedures; complaints by employees or other non-students will be investigated under Administrative Regulations
- B. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the prompt investigation and resolution of such complaints. If a complaint is filed relating to alleged discrimination occurring more than thirty (30) school days after the alleged occurrence, the Board's ability to investigate the allegations may be limited by the passage of time. Therefore, complaints received after thirty (30) school days of the alleged occurrence shall be investigated to the extent possible, given the passage of time and the impact on available information, witnesses and memory. If a complaint is made verbally, the individual taking the complaint will reduce the complaint to writing.
- C. At any time, when complaints involve discrimination that is directly related to a claim regarding the identification, evaluation, and/or educational placement of a student under Section 504, the complainant may request that the Section 504/ADA

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

Coordinator submit the complaint directly to an impartial hearing officer and request a due process hearing in accordance with Section III.D. Complaints regarding a student's rights with respect to the student's identification, evaluation and/or educational placement shall be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth below in Section III.

D. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's policy and regulations listed herein is strictly prohibited. The district will not tolerate any retaliation that occurs as a result of the good faith reporting or complaint of disability-based discrimination, or as a result of an individual's participation or cooperating in the investigation of a complaint. The district will take necessary actions to prevent retaliation as a result of filing a complaint or the participation in an investigation of a complaint.

E. If the Section 504/ADA Coordinator is the subject of the complaint, the complaint should be submitted directly to the Superintendent who may conduct the investigation or appoint a designee to conduct the investigation in accordance with these procedures. . If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the Board shall designate an appropriate party to conduct the investigation in accordance with these procedures.

F. Complaints will be investigated promptly. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and other extenuating circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible.

G. If a disability discrimination complaint raises a concern about bullying behavior, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator shall notify the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee who shall coordinate any bullying investigation with the Section 504/ADA Coordinator, so as to ensure that any such bullying investigation complies with the requirements of applicable Board policies.

H. The complaint should contain the following information:

1. The name of the complainant;
2. The date of the complaint;
3. The date(s) of the alleged discrimination;
4. The names of any witness(es) or individuals relevant to the complaint;
5. A detailed statement describing the circumstances in which the alleged discrimination occurred; and
6. Remedy requested.

However, all complaints will be investigated to the extent possible, even if such information is not included in the complaint. In such circumstances, additional information may be requested by the investigator as part of the investigation process.

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

- I. Upon receipt of the complaint, the individual investigating the complaint shall:
 1. Provide a copy of the written complaint to the Superintendent of Schools;
 2. Meet separately with the complainant and the respondent within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of the complaint, identify individuals the complainant and respondent believe have relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant may have;
 3. Provide the complainant and respondent with a copy of the Board's Section 504 Policy, and these administrative regulations;
 4. Consider whether and which interim measures might be appropriate for an alleged victim and the respondent pending the outcome of the District's investigation;
 5. Conduct an investigation of the factual basis of the complaint that is adequate, reliable, and impartial, including conducting interviews with individuals with information and review of documents relevant to the complaint;
 6. Maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process, in accordance with state and federal law;
 7. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant, and to the respondent (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within fifteen (15) school days from the date the complaint was received by the Section 504/ADA Coordinator or Superintendent. The investigator may extend this deadline for no more than fifteen (15) additional school days if needed to complete the investigation. The complainant and the respondent shall be notified of any such extension. ;
 8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint and no later than fifteen (15) school days after the start of the following school year. The complainant and the respondent if the investigation has been impeded by the summer recess will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary (see sub-paragraph 4);
 9. Ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken whenever allegations are verified. When allegations are verified, ensure that measures to remedy the

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

effects of the discrimination and prevent its recurrence are appropriately considered, and offered, when appropriate.

10. In the event the investigator concludes that there is no violation of Section 504/ADA, the District may attempt to resolve the complainant's ongoing concerns, if possible.

- H. If the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of the investigation the appealing party may request review and reconsideration of the conclusion of the complaint days of receipt of the written outcome. In requesting review, the appealing party must submit the complaint, the written outcome of the complaint, and explain why he/she believes the factual information relied upon by the investigator was incomplete, the analysis of the facts was incorrect, and/or the appropriate legal standard was not applied, *and* how this would change the investigator's determination in the case. Failure to do so may result in the denial of the review.

Upon review of a written request from the appealing party, the Superintendent shall review the investigative results of the Section 504/ADA Coordinator and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with the investigator and other relevant witnesses, a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint or a decision affirming or overruling the investigator's conclusions or findings. The Superintendent shall provide written notice to the appealing party and other party of his/her decision within ten (10) school days following the receipt of the written request for review. When a written request for review is received during summer recess, the Superintendent conduct the review as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the review, and no later than ten (10) school days after the start of the following school year. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

III. Grievance/Complaint Resolution Procedures for Complaints Involving a Student's Identification, Evaluation, and/or Educational Placement

Complaints regarding a student's identification, evaluation, and/or educational placement shall generally be handled using the procedures described below. **However, at any time, the complainant may request that the Section 504 Coordinator submit the complaint directly to an impartial hearing officer, and request a hearing in accordance with the provisions of subsection D (below).**

- A. Submission of Complaint to Section 504/ADA Coordinator

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

1. In order to facilitate the prompt investigation of complaints, any complaint regarding a student's identification, evaluation and/or educational placement under Section 504 should be forwarded to the district's Section 504/ADA (see contact information below) Coordinator within thirty (30) school days of the alleged date that the dispute regarding the student's identification, evaluation and/or education placement arose. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the resolution of potential educational disputes.
2. The complaint concerning a student's identification, evaluation and/or educational placement should contain the following information:
 - a. Full name of the student, age, and grade level;
 - b. Name of parent(s);
 - c. Address and relevant contact information for parent/complainant;
 - d. Date of complaint;
 - e. Specific areas of disagreement relating to the student's identification, evaluation and/or placement; and
 - f. Remedy requested.

However, all complaints will be investigated to the extent possible even if such information is not included in the written complaint. In such circumstances, additional information may be requested by the investigator as part of the investigation process.

3. Complaints will be investigated promptly within timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and other extenuating circumstances.
4. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator shall:
 - a. Forward a copy of the complaint to the Superintendent of Schools;
 - b. Meet with the complainant within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of the student's concerns and determine if an appropriate resolution can be reached or whether interim measures may be appropriate. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint, and no later than ten (10) school days after the start of the following school year;

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

c. If, following such a meeting, further investigation is deemed necessary, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator shall promptly investigate the factual basis for the complaint, consulting with any individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the student and/or complainant; and

d. Communicate the results of his/her investigation in writing to the complainant and any persons named as parties to the complaint (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements) within fifteen (15) school days from the date the complaint was received by the Section 504 Coordinator.

e. In the event that the person making the complaint contends that the Section 504 Coordinator has a conflict of interest that prevents him/her from serving in this role, the complaint shall be forwarded to the Superintendent who shall appoint an investigator who does not have a conflict of interest.

B. Review by Superintendent of Schools

1. If the complainant is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of the investigation, the appealing party may present the complaint and written outcome to the Superintendent for review and reconsideration within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the findings. This process provides an opportunity for the appealing party to bring information to the Superintendent's attention that would change the outcome of the investigation. In submitting the complaint and written outcome for review, the appealing party must explain why he/she believes the factual information relied upon by the investigator was incomplete, the analysis of the facts was incorrect, and/or the appropriate legal standard was not applied, *and* how this would change the investigator's determination in the case. Failure to do so may result in the denial of the review.
2. Upon review of a written request from the appealing party, the Superintendent shall review the investigative results of the investigator and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with the investigator and other relevant witnesses, a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint or a decision affirming or overruling the investigator's conclusions or findings.
3. Following the Superintendent's review, he or she shall provide written notice to the appealing party of his/her findings to the complainant within ten (10) school days following his/her receipt of the written request for review, or if the

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

request is received during summer recess, as quickly as possible but no later than ten (10) school days after the start of the following school year.

4. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision or proposed resolution, he/she may request that the Superintendent submit the matter to a neutral mediator or to an impartial hearing officer. This request for a hearing/mediation should be made within fifteen (15) school days of the Superintendent's decision.

C. Mediation Procedures:

1. A parent or guardian may request mediation with a neutral mediator to attempt to resolve a disagreement with the decisions made by the professional staff of the school district with respect to the identification, evaluation, and/or educational placement of his/her child.

2. A request for mediation regarding a student's identification, evaluation and/or educational placement under Section 504 should be forwarded to the district's Section 504/ADA Coordinator within thirty (30) school days of the alleged date that the dispute regarding the student's identification, evaluation, and/or education placement arose or within fifteen (15) school days of the Superintendent's decision in reviewing a complaint handled through the grievance/complaint procedure described in Section III.B, above. Mediation shall only occur by mutual agreement of the parties..

3. The request for mediation concerning a disagreement relating to a student's identification, evaluation and/or educational placement should contain the following information:

- a. Full name of the student, age, and grade level;
- b. Name of parent(s);
- c. Address and relevant contact information for parent/complainant;
- d. Date of complaint;
- e. Specific areas of disagreement relating to the student's identification, evaluation and/or placement; and
- f. Remedy requested.

4. Upon receipt of a request for mediation, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator shall:

- i. Forward a copy of the request for mediation to the Superintendent of Schools;

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

ii. Inform the parent/guardian or student 18 years old or older as to whether the district agrees to mediation in writing;

iii. If the District agrees to mediation, the Board shall retain a neutral mediator who is knowledgeable about the requirements of Section 504/ADA, and has an understanding of a free appropriate public education (“FAPE”) under Section 504, and the distinctions between and among Section 504, the ADA and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”).

iv. If the district does not agree to mediation, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator shall inform the parent/guardian or student aged 18 or older of their right to request an impartial hearing.

5. The mediator shall inform all parties involved of the date, time and place of the mediation and of the right to have legal counsel or other representation at the complainant’s own expense, if desired.

6. The mediator shall meet with the parties jointly, or separately, as determined by the mediator, and shall facilitate a voluntary settlement of the dispute between the parties, if possible.

7. All statements, offers, or discussions and/or information shared during the mediation process, but not available from other means, shall be confidential, and may not be used in a subsequent hearing or proceeding related to the disagreement that is the subject of the mediation.

8. If the parties are not able to reach a voluntary settlement of the dispute, the complainant may request an impartial hearing, as described below.

D. Impartial Hearing Procedures:

An impartial due process hearing is available to the parent or guardian of a student or a student aged 18 years of age or older who disagrees with the decisions made by the professional staff of the school district with respect to the identification, evaluation, and/or educational placement of the student, or otherwise makes a claim of discrimination relating to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the student.

1. The request for a due process hearing concerning a disagreement relating to a student’s identification, evaluation or educational placement should contain the following information:

a. Full name of the student, age, and grade level;

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

- b. Name of parent(s);
- c. Address and relevant contact information for parent/complainant;
- d. Date of complaint;
- e. Specific areas of disagreement relating to the student's identification, evaluation and/or placement; and
- f. Remedy requested.

2. Upon receipt of a request for an impartial due process hearing, the Board shall retain an impartial hearing officer. The impartial hearing officer must be someone who is knowledgeable about Section 504/ADA and has an understanding of a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") under Section 504, and the distinctions between Section 504, the ADA and the regulations and requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The impartial hearing officer shall schedule a pre-hearing conference with the District and the parents or student 18 years of age or older (and/or legal counsel for the student) to identify the issue(s) for hearing, set the hearing schedule, and address other administrative matters related to the hearing, including the option for mediation

3The impartial hearing officer shall inform all parties involved of the date, time and place of the hearing and of the right to present witness(es), other evidence, and to be represented by legal counsel at each party's own expense, if desired.

4The impartial hearing officer shall hear all aspects of the complainant's complaint and/or appeal concerning the identification, evaluation and/or educational placement of the student and shall reach a decision within forty-five (45) school days of receipt of the request for hearing. The decision shall be presented in writing to the complainant and to the Section 504/ADA Coordinator. The impartial hearing officer's decision shall be final.

5An impartial hearing officer under Section 504 does not have jurisdiction to hear claims alleging discrimination, harassment or retaliation based on an individual's disability unless such a claim is *directly related* to a claim regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student under Section 504.

6The time limits noted herein may be extended for good cause shown, including but not limited to if more time is needed to permit thorough review, presentation of evidence, and opportunity for resolution.

E. Drug/Alcohol Violations

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

If a student with a disability violates the Board's policies relative to the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol, the Board may take disciplinary action against such student for his/her illegal use or possession of drugs or alcohol to the same extent that the Board would take disciplinary action against nondisabled students. Such disciplinary action is not subject to the complaint or due process procedures outlined above

IV. *The Section 504/ADA Coordinator for this district is:*

Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services
Darien Public Schools
35 Leroy Avenue
Darien, CT 06820

Telephone: 203-656-7474

V. *Complaints to Federal Agencies*

At any time, the complainant has the right to file a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02109-0111 (TELEPHONE NUMBER (617) 289-0111); <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>.

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

NOTICE OF PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS
UNDER SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (commonly referred to as “Section 504”) is a non-discrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Under Section 504, the school district also has specific responsibilities to identify, evaluate and provide an educational placement for students who are determined to have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. The school district’s obligation includes providing such eligible students a free appropriate public education (“FAPE”). Section 504 defines FAPE as the provision of regular or special education and related services that are designed to meet the individual educational needs of a student with a disability as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, and that are provided without cost (except for fees imposed on nondisabled students/parents).

A student is covered under Section 504 if it is determined that he/she suffers from a mental or physical disability that substantially limits one or more major life activity such as (but not limited to) caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating and working. A major life activity may also include the operation of a major bodily function, such as an individual’s immune, digestive, respiratory or circulatory systems.

A student can be disabled and be covered by Section 504 even if he/she does not qualify for, or receive, special education services under the IDEA.

The purpose of this notice is to provide parents/guardians and students 18 years of age and older with information regarding their rights under Section 504. Under Section 504, you have the right:

1. To be informed of your rights under Section 504;
2. To have your child take part in and receive benefits from the Darien Public School District’s education programs without discrimination based on his/her disability.
3. For your child to have equal opportunities to participate in academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities in your school without discrimination based on his/her disability;
4. To be notified of decisions and the basis for decisions regarding the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of your child under Section 504;

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

5. If you suspect your child may have a disability, to request an evaluation, at no expense to you, to have an eligibility determination under Section 504, and if eligible, placement decisions made by a team of persons who are knowledgeable of your child, the assessment data, and any placement options;
6. If your child is eligible for services under Section 504, for your child to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This includes the right to receive regular or special education and related services that are designed to meet the individual needs of your child as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met.
7. If your child is eligible for services under Section 504, for your child to receive reasonable accommodations and services to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school, extra-curricular and school-related activities;
8. For your child to be educated with peers who do not have disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate;
9. To have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided to non-disabled students;
10. To review all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's Section 504 identification, evaluation, and educational placement;
11. To examine or obtain copies of your child's educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;
12. To request changes in the educational program of your child, to have your request and related information considered by the team, a decision made by the team, and if denied, an explanation for the team's decision/determination;
13. To an impartial due process hearing if you disagree with the school district's decisions regarding your child's Section 504 identification, evaluation or educational placement. The costs for this hearing are borne by the local school district. You and the student have the right to take part in the hearing and to have an attorney represent you at your expense.
14. To file a local grievance/complaint with the district's designated Section 504 Coordinator to resolve complaints of discrimination including, but not limited to, claims of discrimination directly related to the identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
15. To file a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut

The Section 504/ADA Coordinator for this district is:

Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services
Darien Public Schools
35 Leroy Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
Telephone: 203-656-7474

For additional assistance regarding your rights under Section 504, you may contact:

Boston Regional Office
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
8th Floor
5 Post Office Square, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02109-3921
Telephone: (617) 289-0111

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