

Mt. Olive Township School District

Section 504 Information Regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 is an Act, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who:

1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (major life activities include activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working),
2. Has a record of such an impairment, or
3. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Mt. Olive Township School District recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person solely due to his/her disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system.

The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services.

If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also specifies rights related to educational records. This Act gives the parent or guardian the right to:

1. inspect and review his/her child's educational records;
2. make copies of these records;
3. receive a list of all individuals having access to those records;
4. ask for an explanation of any item in the records;
5. ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the child's rights, and
6. a hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make the amendment.

If there are questions, please feel free to contact Michael R. Iannucci, Section 504 Coordinator for the school district at 973.691.4008, Ext. 8405.

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Mt. Olive Township School District

Section 504

Parental/Student Rights in the Identification, Evaluation and Placement Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

Please keep this explanation for future reference.

The following is a description of the rights granted by this 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. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under this federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with nondisabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities.
5. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided to nondisabled students.
6. Have your child receive special education and related services if he/she is found to be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
7. Have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by a group of persons, including persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and placement options.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement.
10. Obtain copies of your child's educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
11. Receive a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records;
12. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing.
13. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. You and the student may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you. Hearing requests must be made to Michael R. Iannucci, District 504 Coordinator.
14. File a local grievance.
Lisa Schleer, District 504 Coordinator, may be reached at (973) 691-4008, Ext. 8405.

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