

Section 504 is a section of a federal civil rights law, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, that prohibits discrimination by federally-funded institutions, such as public schools, against individuals with disabilities. Section 504 ensures that a student with a disability has equal access to education by requiring that schools provide accommodations for the student. Students who qualify for a 504 plan must be given the opportunity to receive any help, benefit, and services and participate in activities that are available for students without disabilities. This includes school-sponsored, non-academic, and extracurricular services and activities.

The 504 plan process may be started by a parent's written request or the school's referral for an evaluation when the student is having academic, social, or behavioral problems that limit one or more major life activities. Major life activities include walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, and learning. In addition, the District must believe that the student needs additional support in the regular education classroom in order to access the curriculum. Section 504 requires consent from the parents *before conducting* evaluations.

If you have a concern and would like to discuss your child's needs with regard to Section 504, please contact the 504 Coordinator at your child's school. In Webster, the 504 coordinators are:

- Bartlett High School - Mr. Patrick Diggins
- Webster Middle School - Grade Level School Counselor
- Park Avenue Elementary School - Grade Level School Counselor