

IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THE DISTRICT'S DECISION

If you disagree with the district's decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, or placement under Section 504, you may request mediation or an impartial due process hearing. You and your child have the right to take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you. Hearing requests and other concerns can be made to your district's Section 504 Coordinator:

Gus Wessel
(253) 840-8848
Wesseab@puyallupsd.org

You have the right to file a complaint of discrimination with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), or to file a complaint in federal court. Generally, an OCR complaint may be filed within 180 calendar days of the act that you believe was discriminatory. The regional office is located at:
915 Second Ave, Room 3310
Seattle, WA 98174-1099
Phone: 206-607-1600/TTD: 206-607-1647
Website: www.ed.gov/OCR

NOTE: The complaint procedure outlined above does not prohibit the processing of a complaint in an informal manner if the complainant so desires.

Additional information regarding Section 504 may be found on the District's website under District Policies. Policy 2162- Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504



PUYALLUP
SCHOOL DISTRICT
A Tradition of Excellence

Puyallup School District Non-Discrimination Policy

Puyallup School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:
Gus Wessel
Wesseab@puyallupsd.org
(253) 840-8848

504/ADA Coordinator:
Gus Wessel
Wesseab@puyallupsd.org
(253) 840-8848

Parents' Rights Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

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WHAT IS SECTION 504?

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly called "Section 504," is a federal law that protects students from discrimination based on disability. Section 504 assures that students with disabilities have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to students without disabilities. To be eligible, a student must have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.

The following is a list of rights granted by federal law to students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you informed concerning decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with these decisions.

YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

You have the right to:

- Receive a free and appropriate public education.
- Participate in and benefit from the district's educational programs without discrimination.
- Be provided an equal opportunity to participate in the district's nonacademic and extracurricular activities.
- Be educated with students who do not have disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.
- Be educated in facilities and receive services that are comparable to those provided to students without disabilities.
- Receive accommodations and/or related aids and services to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school activities.

YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION (Conts.)

- Receive educational and related aids and services without cost, except for those fees imposed on the parents of children without disabilities.
- Receive special education services if needed.

YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

You have the right to:

- Review your child's educational records and to receive copies at a reasonable cost. You will not be charged if the cost would keep you from reviewing the records.
- Ask the district to change your child's education records if you believe that they are wrong, misleading, or are otherwise in violation of your child's privacy rights. If the district refuses this request, you have the right to challenge the refusal by requesting an impartial hearing.
- A response to your reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's education records.



THE SECTION 504 PROCESS

Your child has the right to an evaluation before the school determines if he or she is eligible under Section 504. You have the right to:

- Receive notice before the district takes any action regarding the identification, evaluation, and placement of your child.
- Have evaluation and placement decisions made by a group of persons, often called a "504 team", including persons who know your child, the meaning of the evaluation information, and the placement options available.
- Have evaluation decisions based on a variety of sources, such as aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical conditions, medical records, and parental observations.
- Refuse consent for the initial evaluation and initial placement of your child.
- If your child is eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic re-evaluations, including re-evaluations before any significant change is made in your child's placement.