

# COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## *Unified Learning Support Services -- 504 documentation*

### NOTICE OF PARENT AND STUDENTS RIGHTS UNDER SECTION 504

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| <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>I have received a copy of the <i>Parent and Student Rights under Section 504.</i></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>I understand that if I have questions concerning the information contained in this document, I can contact the Section 504 Coordinator at my child's school.</b></p> |
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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of the Act is to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. For eligible school-aged students, this guarantees the right for disabled students to have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students.

An eligible student under Section 504 is a school-aged students who (a) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity; (b) has a record of such an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity and is discriminated against based on that record; or (c) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity and is discriminated against based on being regarded as having the impairment.

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to students with identified eligible Section 504 handicaps. Parents, guardians, and their child have the right to:

1. Take part in and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her handicapping condition;
2. Be advised by CPS of your rights under federal law;
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement;
4. Receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-handicapped students to the maximum extent appropriate.
5. To have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities;
6. Be educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-handicapped students;
7. Receive special education and related services if (A) found to be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"); (B) if found to be eligible under Section 504 is warranted and appropriate to avoid educational discrimination on the basis of handicap;
8. Evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and placement options;
9. Transportation provided to and from a district made alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
10. Be given an equal opportunity to participate in non-academic and extracurricular activities offered by the district;
11. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding identification, evaluation, educational program and placement;
12. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;
13. A response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of related records;
14. Request amendment of related student educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights;
15. Request mediation, grievance procedure or an impartial due process hearing (as appropriate) related to decisions or actions regarding identification, evaluation, educational program or placement;
16. Be represented by legal counsel and request payment of reasonable attorney fees if you prevail on your claim; and
17. File a complaint with the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. The persons employed by CPS who serve as the Section 504 Coordinators and are responsible for assuring that the District complies with Section 504 are:
  - For Employee-related matters: Human Resources Director
  - For Student-related matters: Director of Special Education Telephone Number: 401-822-9400

The address for the Northeast Regional Office of Civil Rights is: U.S. Department of Education- OCR 5 Post Office Square, 8th Floor Boston, MA 02109-3921 Tel.: (617) 289-0111 Fax: (617) 289-0150 Email: OCR.Boston@ed.gov