

Academics and Special Programs



SECTION 504

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as “Section 504,” is a federal statute that prohibits discrimination against persons on the basis of disability by institutions, such as Maricopa Unified School District, that receive Federal financial assistance. It states:

- No otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in,
- be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Section 504’s purpose is, among other things, to assure that students with disabilities have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to students without disabilities. Responsibilities of school districts under Section 504 include Child Find, Evaluation, Free Appropriate Public Education, Placement, and Procedural Safeguards. An eligible student under Section 504 is a student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. If a student is covered by Section 504, Maricopa Unified School District must provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), including accommodations when necessary to ensure that the student has equal access to services, programs, and activities offered by our schools.

Section 504 Compliance Coordinator
Dr. Lindsay Slover, Director of Exceptional Student Services
lstollarslover@musd20.org
(520) 568-5100 ext. 1018



CHILD FIND

Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2014) that requires Public Education Agencies (PEA) to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with potential disabilities, ages 3 years through 21, located within their boundaries with suspected disabilities. For more information, contact the district ESS Dept.

DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The Maricopa Unified School District Developmental Preschool Program is located at Butterfield Elementary and Saddleback Elementary schools. Priority placement is given for those students who qualify as requiring special needs according to state guidelines. Students who do not meet the guidelines may be admitted, as space is available in the program through a mandatory screening program. Children who are 2 years 9 months of age and who demonstrate need for specially designed instruction may be included in the preschool program.