

**Regulation #4118.14
Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504**

**Madison Board of Education Section 504/ADA Grievance/Complaint
Procedures Regarding Discrimination Against Employees**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“Title II” or “ADA”) (collectively, “Section 504/ADA”) prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. For the purposes of Section 504/ADA, the term “disability” with respect to an individual means: (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (b) a record of such an impairment; or (c) being regarded as having such an impairment.

I. Definitions

Major life activities: include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, sitting, reaching, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, interacting with others, and working. A major life activity also includes the operation of a major bodily function, such as the functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive systems. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

Mitigating Measures: include, but are not limited to, (a) medication, medical supplies, equipment, appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics including limbs and devices, hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; (b) use of assistive technology; (c) reasonable modifications or auxiliary aids or services; (d) learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications; or (e) psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

Physical or Mental Impairment: (a) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems, such as: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, immune, circulatory, hemic, lymphatic, skin, and endocrine or (b) any mental or psychological disorder, such as intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disability. Physical or mental impairment includes, but is not limited to, contagious and noncontagious diseases and conditions such as the following: orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, and cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, intellectual disability, emotional illness, dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), tuberculosis, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

II. Procedures for Grievances/Complaints Alleging Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

- A. Any eligible person, including any student, parent/guardian, staff member or other employee who feels that they have been discriminated against on the basis of disability may submit a written complaint to the Section 504/ADA Coordinator (See contact info below) within thirty (30) school days of the alleged occurrence.
- B. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the prompt investigation and resolution of such complaints. If a complaint is filed relating to alleged discrimination occurring more than thirty (30) school days after the alleged occurrence, the ability of the District to investigate the allegations may be limited by the passage of time. Therefore, complaints received after thirty (30) school days of the alleged occurrence shall be investigated to the extent possible, given the passage of time and the impact on available information, witnesses and memory. If the complaint is made verbally, the individual taking the complaint will reduce it to writing. Individuals wishing to make a complaint about discrimination against students on the basis of disability should be referred to the district's Section 504/ADA policies and regulations regarding students.
- C. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's policy and regulations listed herein is strictly prohibited. The District will not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting or complaint of disability-based discrimination or as

a result of an individual's participation or cooperating in the investigation of a complaint. The District will take necessary actions to prevent retaliation as a result of filing a complaint or the participation in an investigation of a complaint.

- D. If the Section 504/ADA Coordinator is the subject of the complaint, the complaint should be submitted directly to the Superintendent who may conduct the investigation or appoint a designee to conduct the investigation in accordance with these procedures. If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the Board shall designate an appropriate party to conduct the investigation in accordance with these procedures.
- E. E. Complaints will be investigated promptly within timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and other extenuating circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible.
- F. The complaint should contain the following information:
 - 1. The name of the complainant;
 - 2. The date of the complaint;
 - 3. The date(s) of the alleged discrimination;
 - 4. The names of any witnesses or individuals relevant the complaint;
 - 5. A detailed statement describing the circumstances in which the alleged discrimination occurred; and
 - 6. The remedy requested.

However, all complaints will be investigated to the extent possible, even if such information is not included in the complaint. In such circumstances, additional information may be requested by the investigator as part of the investigation process.

- G. Upon receipt of the complaint, the individual investigating the complaint shall:
 - 1. Provide a copy of the written complaint to the Superintendent of Schools;
 - 2. Meet with the complainant within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of the complaint, identify individuals the complainant believes have relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant may have;

3. Provide the complainant with a copy of the applicable Board Section 504/ADA Policy and these administrative regulations;
4. Consider whether and which interim measures might be appropriate for an alleged victim and the respondent pending the outcome of the District's investigation;
5. Conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis for the complaint, including conducting interviews with individuals with information and review of documents relevant to the complaint;
6. Maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process in accordance with state and federal law;
7. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant, and to any individual properly identified as a party to the complaint (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within fifteen (15) school days from the date the complaint was received by the Section 504/ADA Coordinator or Superintendent. The investigator may extend this deadline for no more than fifteen (15) additional school days if needed to complete the investigation. The complainant shall be notified of such extension. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify how the district will remedy any identified violations of Section 504/ADA;
8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, complainant will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary (see sub-paragraph 6);
9. Ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken whenever allegations are verified. When allegations are verified, ensure that measures to remedy the effects of the discrimination are appropriately considered, and offered, when appropriate. Corrective action should include steps to avoid continuing discrimination.

10. In the event the investigator concludes that there is no violation of Section 504/ADA, the District may attempt to resolve the complainant's ongoing concerns, if possible.

H. After receiving the written notice of the outcome, parties shall have ten (10) school days to submit a formal written statement of appeal, if they so choose, to the Superintendent of Schools challenging the outcome of the investigation and explaining the basis for appeal.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the Superintendent shall appoint a decisionmaker(s) for the appeal, who may be the Superintendent or designee. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will provide the appealing party's written statement to the non-appealing party. The non-appealing party will then have ten (10) school days to submit to the decision-maker(s) for the appeal a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome of the investigation.

The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal shall review the evidence and the information presented by the parties and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with the investigator(s) and the parties, a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint, or a decision affirming or overruling the written outcome. Generally, a party's disagreement with the outcome of the investigation, alone, will not be basis for further action. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will attempt to issue written notice of the outcome of the appeal to the parties within thirty (30) school days of receipt of all written statements from the parties.

III. The Section 504/ADA Coordinator for this district is:

**Director of Special Education
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443
203-245-6341**

IV. Complaints to Federal or State Agencies

At any time, the complainant has the right to file a formal complaint with:

U.S. Department of Education,
Office for Civil Rights, 8th Floor,
5 Post Office Square, Suite 900,
Boston, MA 02109-0111
(617) 289-0111
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>.

Employees may also file a complaint regarding employment discrimination on the basis of disability with:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission,

Boston Area Office,
John F. Kennedy Federal Building,
475 Government Center,
Boston, MA 02203
(800) 669-4000

OR

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities,
25 Sigourney Street,
Hartford, CT 06106
(800) 477-5737



**SECTION 504/ADA DISCRIMINATION
GRIEVANCE/COMPLAINT FORM FOR NON-STUDENTS**

(This form is intended to be used if an individual has grievance/complaint under Section 504/ADA alleging discrimination on the basis of a disability).

1.

Name of Complainant: _____ Date: _____

2.

Contact Information for Complainant:

(Address)

(Home Tel. #)

(Cell # or Work #)

3.

Name of Covered Individual: _____

4.

Address of Covered Individual (if different from above):

5.

Relationship to School (e.g., position, visitor, parent) (if applicable):

6.

Please describe the nature of your complaint:

7.

Proposed resolution or corrective action you wish to see taken with regard to the stated issues:

