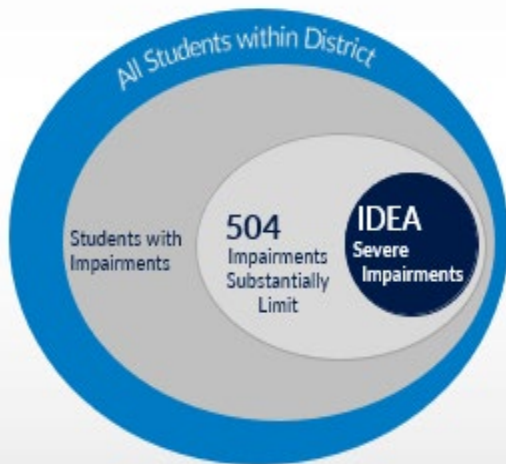


How Does a Section 504 Plan Differ from an IEP?

A 504 Plan is developed for students who require only reasonable accommodations within the school environment.

An IEP is developed for students who meet eligibility criteria under the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** and require specialized instruction.



Who Do I Contact to Inquire About a Section 504 Plan for My Child?

Each school has a designated Section 504 Chair. Contact your school's Section 504 Chair to discuss the evaluation and eligibility process.

Who Would I Contact for Additional Information About Section 504?

Dr. Sharyl Williams-Bandy,
Lead, Section 504
770.721.8512

sharyl.williamsbandy@cherokeek12.net

Mary Elizabeth Davis, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Josh Heath
Chief Academic &
Accountability Officer

Charlette M. Green
Executive Director
Special Education Compliance

Cherokee County School District
1205 Bluffs Parkway
Canton, Georgia 30114
Phone 770.704.4200



Updated January 2025

What Parents Need to Know About

SECTION 504

of the Federal Rehabilitation Act



Cherokee County
School District

*Educating the Emerging
Generation*

Cherokee County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices."

What Is Section 504?

Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is enforced by the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) under the guidelines of the U.S. Dept. of Education. This legislation protects the Constitutional civil rights of students with disabilities. The law prohibits schools that receive federal funds from discrimination against otherwise qualified students on the sole basis of a dis-ability.

Who Is Eligible Under Section 504?

Students gain eligibility for Section 504 when they have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities or bodily functions. The impairment does not have to impact the student's learning.

What Are "Major Life Activities"?

Examples of major life activities include, but are not limited to: self-care, manual tasks, walking, seeing, speaking, sitting, thinking, learning, breathing, interacting with others, working, reading, concentrating, standing, lifting, bending, etc.

What Is Involved in an Evaluation for 504?

As part of the process of determining eligibility, you will be asked to provide Consent for Evaluation for 504. You will also be provided with a copy of your Section 504 Parent and Student Rights.

In many cases, the evaluation may simply consist of staff persons reviewing and interpreting existing school records, including anecdotal evidence, observations, prior testing, grades, standardized test scores, health records and other data, in order to determine if the student qualifies for Section 504.

In other cases, additional assessment may be needed to assist the team in determining eligibility. Schools must consider a variety of sources. A single source of information (such as a doctor's report) cannot be the only information considered. Schools must be able to assure that all information submitted is documented and considered.

Note About College Entrance Exams

ACT and the College Board are separate agencies and make their own decisions regarding 504 accommodations for ACT/SAT assessment administration. Section 504 accommodations provided in the school environment do not necessarily ensure approval for ACT/SAT.

What Types of Accommodations Will My Child Receive If Determined Eligible Under Section 504?

Each child's needs are determined individually. As such, determination of what accommodation are appropriate for each child is based on the nature of the disabling condition and what that child needs.

Section 504 is designed to provide equal access and fairness in general education to students with disabilities, thereby leveling the playing field. Section 504 is not a statute of reduced expectations for students. The expectation is to meet grade level performance standards. There is no guarantee that a student with an approved 504 will be awarded higher academic grades.

