PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS

IN STUDENT DETERMINATION OF PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The following is a description of rights granted by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a federal law pertaining to students with disabilities. The law states that "qualified disabled persons will not be discriminated against on the basis of disability in any program, activity or employment practice. A disabled person is defined as any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment." An intent of the law is to provide parents the opportunity to participate in and be informed of decisions about their student and their right to agree or disagree with those decisions.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:

1. Have the school system notify you of your rights under federal law (Section 504).
2. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school system make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in academic, nonacademic, and extra-curricular activities offered by the school system.
3. Have your child take part in and receive benefits from public educational programs without discrimination because of his/her disabling condition(s).
4. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, and educational placement of your child.
5. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-disabled students.
6. Have your child receive services, accommodations/modifications and related services that will meet his/her needs as well as the needs of non-disabled students if he/she is found to be eligible for services under Section 504.
7. Have 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.
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if your child were placed in a program operated by the school system.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions made regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement.
10. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny access to the records.
11. Receive a response from the school system to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
12. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time and advise you of the right to a hearing.
13. Have an opportunity to present complaints or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. You and your child may take part in the hearing and be represented by counsel – counsel at your expense. Hearing requests must be made through the Ouachita Parish 504 Supervisor.
14. File a local grievance.

For more information regarding Section 504, or if you have questions or need additional assistance, contact Ouachita Parish's Section 504 Supervisor: Barry Johnson, 800 Claiborne Street, West Monroe, LA 71292, (318) 432-5400.

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Parent/Guardian Signature **Date** Revised 4/2020