

## **Section 504 Referral and Eligibility Process Continued....**

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### **Who in the evaluation process makes the ultimate decision regarding a student's eligibility for services under Section 504?**

The Section 504 regulatory provision at 34 C.F.R.104.34 (c)(3) provides that a student's eligibility for Section 504 must be made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about the meaning of the evaluation data and knowledgeable about the placement options.

### **Once a student is identified as eligible for services under Section 504, is there an annual or triennial review requirement? If so, what is the appropriate process to be used? Or is it appropriate to keep the Section 504 Plan in place indefinitely after a student has been identified?**

Section 504 requires "periodic" re-evaluation of the student. This may be conducted in accordance with the IDEA regulations, which require re-evaluation at three-year intervals (unless the parent and public agency agree that re-evaluation is unnecessary) or more frequently if conditions warrant, or if the child's parent or teacher requests a re-evaluation, but not more than once a year (unless the parent and public agency agree otherwise).

### **How should the school district view a temporary impairment?**

A temporary impairment does not constitute a disability for purposes of Section 504 unless its severity is such that it results in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities for an extended period of time. The issue of whether a temporary impairment is substantial enough to be a disability must be resolved on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration both the duration (or expected duration) of the impairment and the extent to which it actually limits a major life activity of the affected individual.

In the Amendment Act, Congress clarified that an individual is not "regarded as" an individual with a disability if the impairment is transitory and minor. A transitory impairment is an impairment with an actual or expected duration of 6 months or less. However, impairments that are episodic or in remission are considered disabilities if they substantially limit a major life active when active.