

Oil City Area School District

Chapter 15 / Section 504 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

(In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Chapter 15 of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education Regulations)

1. What is a Section 504 Plan?

A Section 504 Plan is a formal written plan developed by the school district to provide students with disabilities the accommodations they need to access the general education curriculum. It ensures that students are not discriminated against due to a disability and receive equal opportunities to participate in all school programs and activities.

2. How is a 504 Plan different from an IEP (Individualized Education Program)?

504 Plan	IEP (Individualized Education Program)
Covered under Section 504 , a civil rights law	Covered under IDEA , a special education law
Ensures equal access to education	Provides specialized instruction
For students with any disability that limits a major life activity	For students with specific disabilities defined by IDEA
Focuses on accommodations	Focuses on instruction and services

3. Who qualifies for a 504 Plan in OCASD?

A student qualifies if they have a **physical or mental impairment** that substantially limits one or more **major life activities**, such as:

- Learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating
- Seeing, hearing, walking, eating, sleeping, breathing
- Caring for oneself, performing manual tasks
- Major bodily functions (e.g., immune, neurological, respiratory, digestive, circulatory systems)

The condition must impact the student's ability to access or participate in school activities or programs.

4. What are examples of qualifying conditions for a 504 Plan?

- Student breaks an arm and cannot write—receives a note-taker.
- Student with asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, or cancer—allowed to take medication or leave class as needed.
- Student with ADHD, anxiety, or depression—may receive extended test time or alternate seating.

5. What kinds of accommodations can a 504 Plan provide?

Examples of accommodations in OCASD may include:

- Extended time on assignments or tests
- Preferential or flexible seating
- Use of technology or audio-visual aids
- Scheduled breaks during instruction or testing

6. Is a 504 Plan considered special education?

No. A 504 Plan is not special education. It does **not include specialized instruction**, but instead provides accommodations so that students with disabilities can access the **same education and activities** as their peers.

7. What is the evaluation process for a 504 Plan?

Once written **parental permission to evaluate** is received, the district has **60 calendar days** to complete the evaluation.

If a parent/guardian requests an evaluation:

- The district will either:
 1. Provide a **written denial** with reasons;
 2. Send a **Permission to Evaluate** form for further assessments;
 3. Proceed with a **review of existing data** if no additional information is needed.

8. Who serves on the Section 504 Team in OCASD?

The 504 Team includes individuals who are knowledgeable about:

- The student
- The evaluation data

This team may include:

- General education teachers
- School counselors or psychologists
- School nurses
- Parents/guardians
- Other relevant staff or service providers

9. What is a Section 504 Service Agreement?

A **504 Service Agreement** is a written document outlining the specific accommodations and/or services the student needs. It applies across **academic, non-academic, and extracurricular** programs—including transportation and lunch services—and ensures **equal access** to all school activities.

10. Who should I contact for more information about Section 504 in the Oil City Area School District?

For questions or assistance related to Section 504, please contact:

Your child's building principal or Craig Kasunic, District 504 coordinator

Craig Kasunic

Phone: 814-676-2771

Email: ckasunic@mail.ocasd.org