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504 Plan Information

What is a 504 plan?

A 504 is a legally binding agreement between the parents and the school district to support a student who has a disability that has a significant impact on their education but is not eligible for special education.

Are 504 plans only limited to academics?

Plans typically address academic accommodations, but they can also be applied to non-academic areas including extracurricular activities.

Who decides what is included in a 504 plan?

Plans are developed in collaboration with parents and the school team, parents may include information from health care providers, including mental health providers or therapists. However, the school team must determine the impact and appropriateness of the recommendations within the context of the school setting.

What is the difference between a 504 plan and an IEP (Individual Education Plan)?

A 504 plan is not as comprehensive and does not cover all the specific areas covered in an IEP. Plans can be updated as circumstances change or as a student is transitioning from one school to another, for example, from elementary school to middle school. An IEP requires specific timelines for updates, a team of both regular and special education teachers, related services providers, and a Local Education Agency. In contrast, a 504 plan typically is developed with parents, a school counselor, and an administrator.

Should my child have a 504 plan if they have chronic health condition?

No, in most cases students with chronic health conditions should have an Individual Health Plan, (IHP) that is developed by the School Nurse, based on medical documentation from a student's doctor. It is reviewed by the school district physician and shared with the instructional staff on an as-needed basis. IHP's can provide accommodations related to providing medication or support during the school day as well as excusing absences for medical appointments with documentation.

Should my child have a 504 plan if they have a poor attendance or are often late?

No, poor attendance and lateness can contribute to learning gaps, negative work habits, and social isolation. If this is a concern, you should work with your school team to identify the barrier to consistent attendance and develop an attendance improvement plan.

Do 504 plans go on forever?

Some accommodations may need to continue from year to year, other situations may change or need adjustments, so it is important to work with the school team on behalf of your child.