

504 Plans

Brief Overview

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This is the part of the Federal Civil Rights law that prohibits discrimination against public school students with disabilities.

504 Eligibility

A student may be determined eligible for a 504 plan if the student:¹

- ▶ Has a physical or mental impairment that “substantially” limits one or more major life activity **and**
- ▶ Has a record of the impairment **and**
- ▶ Is regarded as having an impairment that isn’t temporary.
- ▶ **AND** that disability **substantially** interferes with the student’s ability to learn and participate in the general education classroom.

What can a 504 include?

504 Plans detail reasonable accommodations and supports that the student needs to access their education. These measures “remove barriers” to learning. ²

When determining these accommodations it is important to consider:

- ▶ The child’s strengths
- ▶ Whether or not accommodations (such as assistive technology) and modifications are helping or have helped in the past
- ▶ Who’s responsible for implementing accommodations and/or supports (i.e. classroom teacher, student, parents).

Works Cited

¹ US Department of Education, “Protecting Students with Disabilities,” Last Modified October 16, 2016.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>

² Understood.org, “Understanding 504 Plans,” Last Accessed March 20, 2018.

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/504-plan/understanding-504-plans>

For additional information on 504 Plans vs. IEPs, please refer to:

Understood.org, “The Difference Between IEPs and 504 Plans,” Last Accessed March 20, 2018. <https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/504-plan/the-difference-between-ieps-and-504-plans>