

**SECTION 504 NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who:

1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (major life activities include activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working);
2. Has a record of such impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having such an impairment [34 CFR 104.3(j)].

In order to fulfill obligations under Section 504, the school district is responsible for nondiscrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and learners. No discrimination against any person with a disability shall knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the school system.

The school district has responsibilities under Section 504, which include the obligations to identify, evaluate and, if the learner is determined to be eligible under Section 504, afford access to appropriate educational services. If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also specifies rights related to educational records. The Act gives the parent or guardian the right to (1) inspect and review his/her child's educational records; (2) make copies of these records; (3) receive a list of all individuals having access to those records; (4) ask for an explanation of any item in the records; (5) ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading or violates the child's rights; and (6) a hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make the amendment.

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NEPN/NSBA Classification:

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