



Children's Mental Health Matters!

Facts for Educators 504 Plans

Definition

A 504 Plan is a legal document that provides accommodations to *regular education* students with special needs in major life activities. The 504 Plan falls under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and is a regulation of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. Some examples of major life activities addressed are: caring for oneself, walking, seeing, hearing, and *learning*. A 504 Plan is **not** an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for Special Education. Educators may request a meeting for a 504 Plan for children who, with reasonable accommodation, can be successful in a regular education program. For each case, staff and family at the meeting will need to make a decision about how often to review the 504 Plan and when follow-up meetings should be made.

Examples of What Might Be Included:

- ✎ Adjustment to test taking (more time, questions given orally)
- ✎ Seating near the blackboard or near the teacher
- ✎ A child may be excused from class to get medications
- ✎ A child with Diabetes may be allowed to eat in class

Who is Responsible for a 504 Plan?

- ✎ The student (if appropriate)
- ✎ Parent or Legal Guardian
- ✎ Teacher
- ✎ Administrator
- ✎ School 504 Coordinator (may be a staff person on the Student Support and/or Child study Teams)

Others who may be included, as appropriate:

- ✎ School Counselor, Social Worker and/or Psychologist
- ✎ Physician, Psychiatrist, or other health professional
- ✎ Mental Health Clinician
- ✎ Speech/Language Pathologists
- ✎ Occupational Therapist/Physical Therapist

Resources/Links:

The Maryland Bar Association. School Law in Maryland: Educational Rights of Children with Special Needs. <http://www.msba.org/departments/commpubl/publivations/brochures/educationrights.htm>

Sevier County Special Education, Sevier County, Tennessee. "IEP's vs. 504 Plans" <http://www.slc.sevier.org/iepv504.htm>

Bridges4Kids. Special Education: Section 504. Frequently Asked Questions and Resources. <http://www.bridges4kids.org/Section504.html>

Learning Disabilities Online: LD In-Depth: Developing 504 Classroom Accommodation Plans: A Collaborative Systematic Parent-Student-Teacher Approach. http://ldonline.orgreachingteacjniques/504_plans.html

**Adapted from Resources found on:
www.schoolmentalhealth.org March 2009**