

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Policy ACE - NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY

Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1992 requires that no qualified individual with a disability shall, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by individuals with disabilities, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, and activities of the District or be subject to discrimination. Nor shall the District exclude or otherwise deny services, programs, or activities to an individual because of the known disability of a person with whom the individual is known to have a relationship or association.

Section 504 is an Act prohibiting discrimination against anyone with a handicap in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a handicap as anyone who:

- has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, including activities such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working;
- has a record of such an impairment; or
- is regarded as having such an impairment

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Stoughton Public School System recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a handicap will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the school system.

The Stoughton Public School System has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and, if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504, afford access to educational services. If the parent or guardian disagrees, with the determination made by the professional staff of the Stoughton Public Schools, she or he has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

If you have questions about Section 504, please feel free to contact the building principal or his/her designee, or the Section 504 Coordinator for the school system at (781) 344-4000, ext. 321.

Compliance Coordinator: The District shall designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title II of ADA, including any investigation of any complaint communicated to it alleging its noncompliance or alleging any actions that would be prohibited under ADA. The District shall make available to all interested individuals the name, office address, and telephone number of the employee(s) so designated and shall adopt and publish procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited under the ADA. The school system receives federal financial assistance and must comply with the above requirements.

LEGAL REFS.: Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, as amended

Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975

M.G.L. [71B:1](#) et seq. (Chapter 766 of the Acts of 1972)

Title II, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992, as amended

Board of Education Chapter 766 Regulations, adopted 10/74, as amended through 3/28/78

CROSS REFS.: [IGB](#), Support Services Programs