

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date Submitted: February 17, 1994 Date Reviewed: December 13, 2005 January 20, 2009	Number: 500-18
Subject: 504 Student Guidelines	Date Approved: March 15, 1994 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009 Date Revised: December 13, 2005 January 20, 2009 Date Effective: March 15, 1994 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish 504 Student Guidelines

2. PROCESS

Section 504 is a part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The primary purpose is to ensure that persons with disabilities are not discriminated against. With respect to education, students with a documented disability or a mental impairment that substantially limits a major life skill, such as learning are entitled to accommodations. Section 504 focuses only on accommodations and modifications in general education.

A. Parents of students with disabilities have the following rights under Section 504:

- 1) Have the school system advise you of your rights under Section;
- 2) Have your child with disabilities take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of the disability;
- 3) Receive all information in your native language or other primary mode of communication;
- 4) Have your child receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE);
- 5) Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in school programs and extracurricular activities sponsored by the school;
- 6) Receive notice before the school identifies or evaluates your child or changes your child's education placement;
- 7) Inspect and review all of your child's educational records, including the right to obtain copies at a reasonable cost. You will not be charged for a copy of your child's record if the cost would prevent you from inspecting and reviewing the records;
- 8) Request an amendment to the record if you believe information contained in the record is inaccurate or misleading or violates your child's privacy or other rights. If the school system refuses to amend the record, you have the right to request a

hearing and/or place in the record a statement of why you disagree with the information it contains;

- 9) Have education evaluation and placement decisions based on information from a variety of sources and by persons who know your child's educational needs, the meaning of the evaluation information, and the placement options available in the school system;
- 10) Have the 504 Plan revised periodically, if one is developed, and have the plan periodically re-evaluated before any significant change is made in your child's placement;
- 11) Be included in decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or educational placement,
- 12) If the parent/guardian disagrees with the school decisions, he/she has the right to an appeal hearing. Appeal requests are made in writing to the:

*Supervisor of 504 Education
Somerset County Public Schools
7882-A Tawes Campus Drive
Westover, Maryland 21871
410-651-1616*

- B. Facilities - The educational program of this County shall be equally accessible to all students at each grade level. Barrier-free access to school facilities shall be provided to the extent that no handicapped person is denied an opportunity to participate in a School System program available to non handicapped persons.
- C. Evaluation and Compliance - The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to evaluate District programs and practices on nondiscrimination, in accordance with law, and to report evaluations to the Board. The Board will submit such assurances of compliances as are required by law.