



Introduction to Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal nondiscrimination law designed to protect the rights of students with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal funds, including public school districts.

To qualify under Section 504, a student must: 1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; 2) have a record of such impairment; or 3) be regarded as having such impairment. Learning is a major life activity.

Federal regulations require school districts to provide a “free appropriate public education” (FAPE) to District students who are qualified to receive Section 504 services. FAPE consists of regular and/or special education and related aids and services designed to meet the student’s individual educational needs.