



Understanding 504 Plans

What is a 504 plan?

- A 504 Plan is a legal document designed to plan a program of instructional services for students with special medical needs in a regular education setting.
- A 504 plan addresses the education of students with special medical needs who do not qualify as special education students.

What is the difference between a 504 plan and an Individualized Education Program (IEP)?

- An **IEP** is required for **special education students**.
- A **504** plan is for a student with special **medical needs in** a regular education classroom.

Requirements to be placed on a 504 plan:

- The individual has a mental or physical impairment that limits one or more of the student's major life activities. Some of these activities are caring for oneself, walking, seeing, speaking, learning, performing manual tasks, hearing, breathing, or working.
- The individual is regarded as having such impairment(s).

What are the steps for placing a student on a 504 plan?

1. A student is referred by teacher, support staff, parent/legal guardian, physician or therapist. A student may also initiate a self-referral.
2. A 504 meeting is held.
3. A plan for the student is developed at that meeting.
4. A date to review that plan is set.

What can a parent, guardian or teacher do if they do not feel that the 504 plan is suitable for the child?

- Changes in the 504 plan can be arranged simply by requesting a review of the plan.
- In this review, make any necessary revisions. This ensures that all the child's needs are met.

What kinds of accommodations are offered in a 504 plan?

Examples of accommodations include:

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| Going to the nursing office | Modifying educational tasks |
| Taking medication | Providing organizational aids |
| Allowing breaks in class when needed | Modifying physical education |