

Section 504

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What is Section 504?

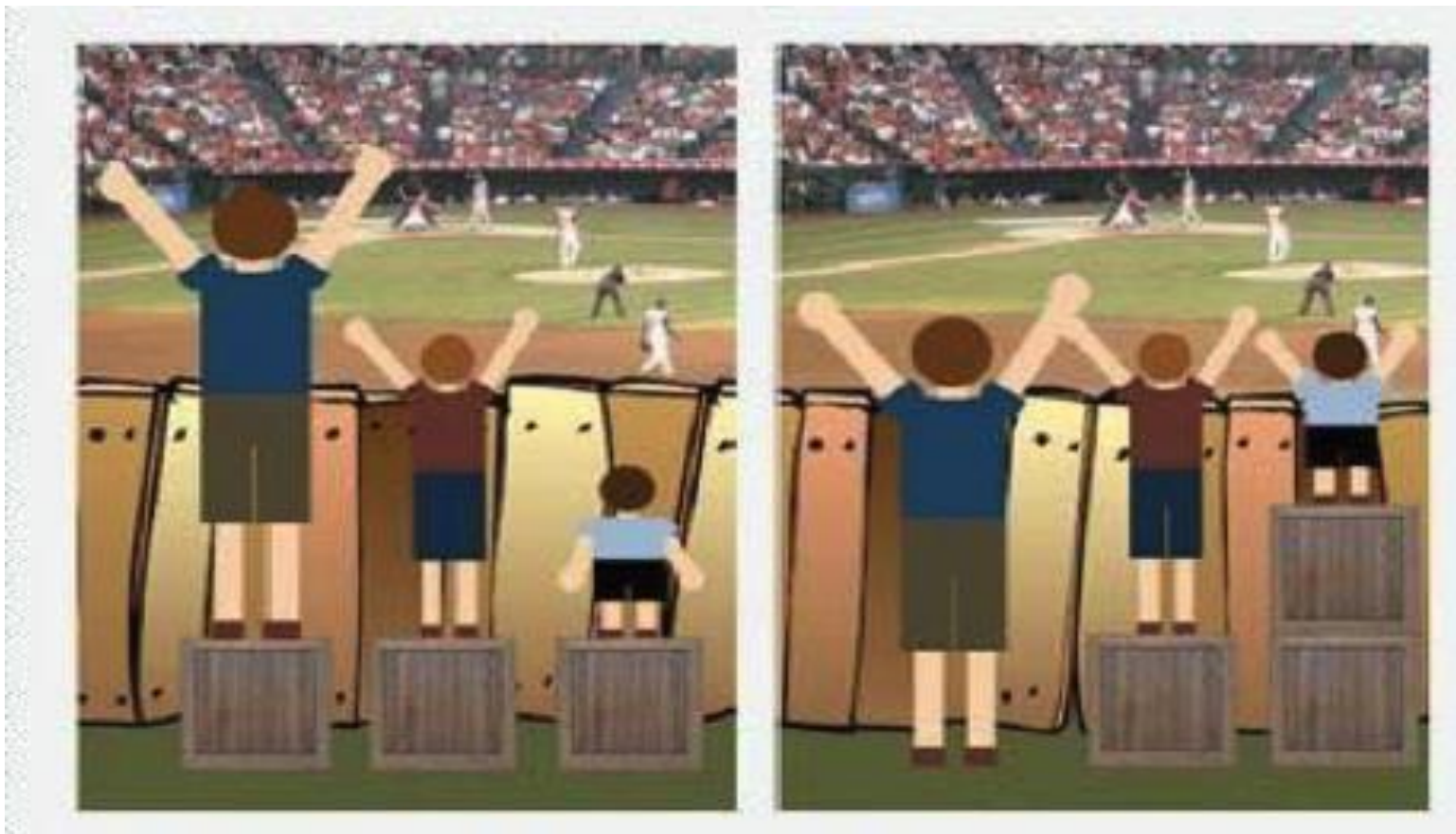
- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly known as Section 504 was created to eliminate discrimination of individuals based on disabilities mental or physical.
- 504 is enforced by the Office of Civil Rights (OCR)
- 1990 ADA Americans with Disabilities Act and in 2008 ADA Amendments Act broadened eligibility of Americans with disabilities under ADA and 504.

It is...

- A way to ensure non-discrimination
- “Level playing field” so all students have equal access to the curriculum

It is not....

- Modifying the curriculum or lowering expectations
- Removing general education requirements (e.g. attendance, credits)
- Providing an educational advantage



Who is eligible?

Any child who has a physical or mental impairments that substantiality limits one or more major life activities as *compared to his or her peers*.

SECTION 504 IN TEXAS



✓ Does the student have a
1 physical or mental
impairment?

✓ Does it ²substantially
³limit a major life
activity?

YES FOR ALL THREE (1, 2, & 3) = SECTION 504 😊

NO FOR ANY OF THE THREE ≠ SECTION 504 ☹️

These are not exhaustive
lists of examples.

Physical Impairment

Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems:

- Neurological
- Musculoskeletal
- Special sense organs
- Cardiovascular
- Reproductive
- Digestive
- Genitourinary
- Hemic
- Lymphatic
- Skin
- Endocrine
- Respiratory

Mental Impairment

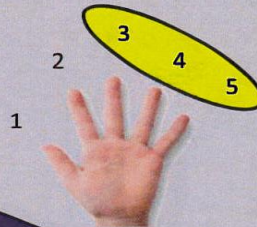
- Intellectual disability
- Organic brain syndrome
- Emotional or mental illness
- Specific learning disability

Substantial

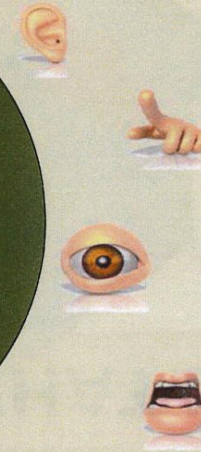
This is a district-by-district decision.

Consider a 1–5 scale, with 1 being mild, 5 being severe, and 3–5 being substantial.

Compare to peers nationally—what should every fourth-grade student be able to do?



Major
Life
Activity



- ✓ Eating
- ✓ Breathing
- ✓ Learning
- ✓ Concentrating
- ✓ Sleeping
- ✓ Working
- ✓ Walking
- ✓ Performing Manual Tasks
- ✓ Seeing
- ✓ Communicating
- ✓ Hearing
- ✓ Moving
- ✓ and many more!

What are some **differences** between Special Education and Section 504 Plans?

Issue	Section 504	Special Education
Purpose	A Civil Rights Act that gives individuals with disabilities the opportunity to fully participate with their peers to the greatest extent possible.	An Education Act, that provides a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to children who qualify under one or more of the 14 broad categories
Responsibility	General Education	Special Education
Funding	Provides no additional funding	Provides additional federal funding to states and school districts
Covers	All persons with disabilities	Ages 3-21
Administration	Section 504 Coordinator	Special Education Director
Service Plan	Accommodation Plan – Section 504 Meeting	Individualized Education Program (IEP) – ARD Meeting
Disabilities	Any disability, if eligible	14 qualifying categories
Parents	Should be involved in all team meetings	Must be involved in all team meetings
Procedural Safeguards	Notice of consent of parents is required	Parent consent and notice required for initial evaluation, placement, and reevaluation
Evaluation and Eligibility	An evaluation is necessary before it can be determined if a child is eligible under Section 504. Documentation can be gathered from a variety of sources instead of completing a formal school evaluation.	Evaluation draws on information from a variety sources in the area of concern. A group decision (including parents) is made with persons knowledgeable about the student, evaluation data and placement options. Written prior notice and informed parent consent are required to evaluate.
Requirements for Delivering Services	Does not require a written plan but does require written documentation that services were provided. Requires the school to provide reasonable accommodations, supports and auxiliary aides. Defines “Appropriate Education” as comparable to the one provided to general education students.	Requires a written Individualized Education Program (IEP). Defines “Appropriate Education” as a program reasonably calculated to provide “educational benefit” to the student

<https://utahparentcenter.org/what-is-a-section-504-plan-does-my-student-qualify-for-one/>

Special Education/504 Accommodations in AAC (formerly Pre-AP), Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses

The following guidelines are intended to apply to eligible special education and Section 504 students who enroll in AAC, AP, or IB courses. While **AAC/AP/IB courses are open to any student wishing to enroll, including special education and Section 504 students**, counselors, parents, ARD or Section 504 Committees should be aware that these are high level academic classes and **accommodations will not be implemented if they alter the content or standards of the course**. The following guidelines shall be applicable to all special education and Section 504 students who enroll in AAC/AP/IB courses:

1. Special Education or **Section 504 students must have equal opportunity to participate in AAC, AP, or IB courses** in accordance with these guidelines.
2. While ARD Committees may wish to consider AAC, AP, or IB courses in connection with transition plans for students who will be attending college, ARD Committees and 504 Committees are not required to place students in AAC, AP, or IB classes unless they can be reasonably expected to be successful with the allowable accommodations described in these guidelines. If a parent chooses to enroll their student in a AAC, AP, or IB course, the ARD/504 Committee shall recommend accommodations in accordance with these guidelines.
3. **Accommodations for Special Education and 504 students may not alter the content or academic standards of the AAC, AP, or IB course. Thus, certain allowable accommodations may include**, but are not necessarily limited to the following:
 - Extended time for testing
 - Opportunity to repeat and explain instructions Assignment notebook
 - Minimal auditory distractions Encouragement for classroom participation Large print, Braille/peer to read aloud
 - Behavior intervention plan
 - Assistive technology as defined by the committee
 - Altered format of exams, such as highlighted instructions or alternative spacing of questions Altered assignments as needed for persons with motoric or visual impairment
1. The following are examples of accommodations which would alter the content or the standards of the course, and **are not allowable**:
 - Reduced assignments**
 - Special projects in lieu of assignments Exams of reduced length**
 - Open book exams**
 - Peer tutoring/paired work arrangement**
 - Any reduction of content or standards of the course Reduced mastery**

If the ARD Committee or **Section 504 Committee does not believe that a student will be successful in a AAC, AP, or IB course, even with the allowable accommodations indicated above, it should notify the parents or the student, as appropriate, of its concerns and document them in the record of the ARD Committee or 504 meeting during which the matter is discussed. While the decision to enroll in a AAC/AP/IB class is ultimately to be made by the parent or student, the ARD or 504 Committee may meet and recommend removal of the student from the classroom if the student is not meeting the standards applicable to students in that program and, as a result, is failing or at risk of failure.**

Frequently Asked Questions

- When will I have a 504 Meeting?
 - Meetings are scheduled based on chronological order.
- Will I have a meeting every year?
 - At Stratford, meetings are traditionally held in the 9th & 11th grades.
- How do teachers know my student has accommodations?
 - Prior to the first day of class, teachers are given access to the Student Service Plan of every Section 504 student on their roster.
- How and when are the meetings scheduled?
 - To ensure we maximize teacher attendance, all meetings are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays before (7:15 AM) and after school (3:10PM)
- Who will be at my meeting?
 - Parents, students and all teachers listed on your student's schedule are invited to attend.
- Can my student attend the meeting?
 - Student attendance is encouraged.
- How long do accommodations last?
 - Accommodations remain in place until your next Section 504 Committee Meeting.
- Can anyone edit, change or modify the Section 504 Student Service Plan?
 - Accommodation changes CANNOT be made without a Committee Meeting. Once the meeting has been documented, the document is locked.
- How are accommodations determined?
 - The Section 504 Committee determine accommodations based on what is currently needed for the student to access the curriculum the same as their non-disabled peers. Accommodation plans are created during the committee meeting utilizing data from a variety of sources. Accommodations are not put in place in order to ensure ACT/College Board accommodations.

- Who do I reach out to for help?
 - THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT SHOULD ALWAYS BE THE CLASSROOM TEACHER
 - Jennifer BashamPluchino – 504 Instructional Specialist Jennifer.bashampluchino@springbranchisd.com
 - Christy Turner – Special Education Christy.turner@springbranchisd.com
 - Meagan Hudek – Testing EOC/STAAR, TELPAS, ACT, AP, PSAT, SAT Meagan.hudek@springbranchsd.com
 - Alfredo (Freddy) Retana Grade 9 Assistant Principal Alfredo.retana@springbranchisd.com
 - Academic Counselor – Schedule changes, academic advice and or social or emotional concerns
See SHS website for Alpha Counselor Contact Information
 - Tyita Webb - Registrar Verification of Enrollment & transcript requests Tyita.webb@springbranchisd.com
- How and when do I apply for ACT/College Board Accommodations?
 - Parents are encouraged to apply for ACT/College Board accommodations at the START of the spring semester of 9th grade. **Please note that ACT/College Board are their own private entities and they do not consult SBISD with regard to accommodation recommendations. Parents and students apply directly to ACT/College Board**
http://www.shs-spartans.com/uploads/5/9/4/0/59401625/applying_for_college_board.pdf
- How do I receive a copy of my student's Section 504 Student Service Plan?
 - For a copy of the most recent Section 504 Student Service Plan go to
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJ7bzvRhZCcOIsmaW4sf25Bpzbjm37qHfgHYEUSXyesrGV6A/viewform>

QUESTIONS???