

## Section 504 General Information

Dumas ISD will ensure that students with disabilities within its boundaries are identified, evaluated, and provided a free appropriate public education pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. No qualified student who demonstrates a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subject to discrimination in any program or activity offered by Dumas ISD. Dumas ISD does not discriminate on the basis of disability with regard to admission, access to educational services, treatment, or employment in its programs or activities.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law that prohibits recipients of federal funding from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. In Section 504, the focus is on non-discrimination. As it relates to public education, the law states that a school cannot place a student in segregated classes or facilities "solely by reason of her or his disability." Students with disabilities must be given the same opportunities to participate in academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities as their non-disabled peers.

Under Section 504, students with disabilities may receive accommodations and services to ensure that their individual educational needs are met as adequately as those of non-disabled students. Under Section 504, children with disabilities must be educated with their non-disabled peers "to the maximum extent appropriate."

All students who qualify for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) are also covered by the provisions of Section 504. However, not all students who qualify for Section 504 are eligible for IDEA services. That's because Section 504's definition of "a student with a disability" is broader than the IDEA's definition and not limited to specific disability categories.

Section 504 is the "umbrella" civil rights law covering persons who have a "physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity."

Under Section 504 a disability is defined as any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs as well as digestive, bowel, bladder, brain, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive organs.

Under Section 504, "major life activities" include caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, reading, writing, calculating math problems, concentrating, interacting with others, learning and working. This list is not exhaustive. Other functions can be major life activities for purposes of Section 504.

Parents typically ask for services under Section 504 when:

- their child has a chronic medical condition, such as asthma or diabetes, that is not covered by the IDEA or
- their child has a disability covered by IDEA, such as ADHD or a mild learning disability, but who does not require IDEA services to benefit from their education.

For information about Section 504 on your child's campus, ask the campus administrator and schedule a time to visit with them.

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Dumas ISD has a duty to identify, locate, and evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate education to disabled students within the district boundaries. For additional information, contact:

James Bussard

Director of Special Services

(806) 935-6774

[james.bussard@dumas-k12.net](mailto:james.bussard@dumas-k12.net)