

Section 504: Notice of Parent/Guardian and Student Rights

The following is a summary of the rights granted by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (“Section 504”) to parents/guardians and students who are identified as having a disability. The school district is obligated to inform you of decisions about your child and of your rights if you disagree with any of those decisions.

You have the right...

1. To have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability;
2. To have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law;
3. To receive notice from the school with respect to the identification, evaluation, educational program or placement of your child;
4. To have your child receive a free appropriate public education to include the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to reasonable accommodations, modifications, and related aids and services necessary for your child to benefit from his or her educational program.
5. To have your child educated in comparable facilities and receive comparable services to those provided non-disabled students;
6. To have decisions regarding your child’s evaluation, program and placement based upon a variety of information sources, and made by persons familiar with the student, the evaluation data, and the placement options;
7. To have your child re-evaluated periodically, to the extent necessary, including before any significant changes are made to your child's educational program or placement;
8. To have your child receive an equal opportunity to participate in extra-curricular school activities;
9. To examine all relevant educational records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, education program, and placement;
10. To obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;
11. To receive a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records;
12. To request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing;
13. To grievance procedures that incorporate appropriate due process standards and that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by this part.
14. To request an impartial hearing, to dispute decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement as a student with a disability. You and your child may take part in the hearing and be represented by an attorney. Questions about how to request a hearing shall be forwarded to the person responsible for the district’s compliance with Section 504 listed below;
15. To have the decisions made by hearing officers or others reviewed in state or federal court.

Who do I contact with questions or concerns?

Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to speak with their school-based 504 Coordinator or Principal. Parents/guardians and students can also contact the DCPS 504 Program team at **504@dc.gov** or **(202) 442-5471**.