

Section 504 Questions Answered



What is Section 504?

It is a section of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibits disability discrimination in programs that receive federal funding (public schools and some private schools).

504 states that public school students with disabilities:

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| 1. Have the right to be free from discrimination based on disability | 2. Are entitled to an equal opportunity regardless of disability; and | 3. Have the right to aids, benefits, or services, equal to those provided to students without disabilities. |
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The purpose of Section 504 is to ensure equal access to all educational programs, activities, and services that the school offers to all students.

Who is qualified?

A student may have a disability and be eligible for Section 504 services if:

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| 1. Their disability limits the major life activity of learning. (A student may be eligible even if they get good grades, because their disability may limit major life activities); | 2. A student has a record of such an impairment/disability; or | 3. A student is regarded as having an impairment/disability |
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IN ADDITION, a student with a disability is also qualified if they are provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) by the state under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

HOWEVER, a student who meets the criteria of 504 does not necessarily meet the eligibility criteria under the IDEA.

Want to know more about this?

Check out this resource, [IDEA vs Section 504](#) on PPMD's website!

What are some examples of disabilities/impairments that qualify under 504?

Major life activities include:	Certain acts a person does such as:	And a person's bodily functions such as:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearing Speaking Lifting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lung disease that affects a person's respiratory system Traumatic brain injury that affects the function of the brain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of a wheelchair to move through the school building A service dog to support the student

What is FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) under 504?

Under Section 504, FAPE provides regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities as fairly as the needs of non-disabled students.

HOWEVER, specially designed instruction is NOT provided under 504.

What kinds of services or supports may be provided under 504?

Examples include:

*This is not a defined list.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevator Ramp Chairlift | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note taker Extra time Tutor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Braille Large print | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible electronic format Use of a calculator |
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The services and supports need to be individualized for the student based on their needs.

For more information [US Dept of Ed - Parent and Educator Resource Guide to Section 504 in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools](#)