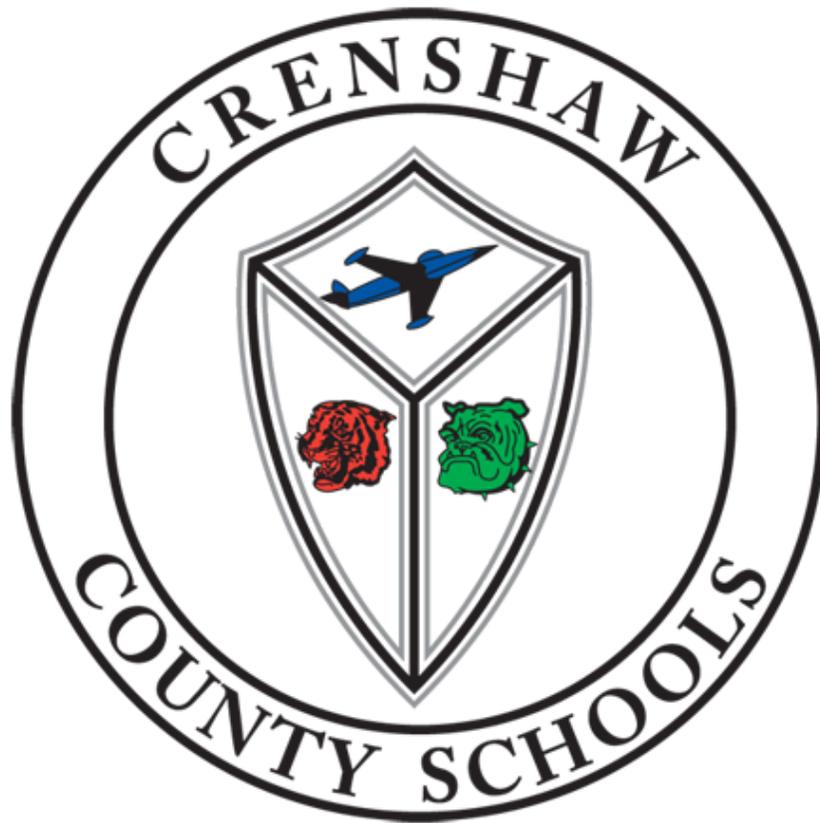


CRENSHAW COUNTY SCHOOLS



**Serving Students with
Disabilities Under
SECTION 504**

SERVING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER SECTION 504
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PART I

OVERVIEW OF SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Introduction

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) is a civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination on the basis of a disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. In particular, Section 504 provides that:

No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States...shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance....

29 U.S.C. § 794(a) (1973). In essence, a school district cannot discriminate on the basis of disability with respect to the provision of any of its programs, services, benefits or activities.

A form of discrimination could occur if a student with a disability is not provided equal access to educational opportunities. Thus, the Section 504 regulations require a school district to provide a “free appropriate public education” (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the school district’s jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. FAPE consists of educational related aids/services and/or accommodations designed to meet the student’s individual educational needs as adequately as the educational needs of non-disabled students are met. While many students with disabilities may qualify for and receive FAPE via the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and an IEP, other students may be disabled only under Section 504 for purposes of FAPE.

The determination of whether a student has a disability under Section 504 (i.e., a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity) is the first determination to be made in the Section 504 process and must be made on an individualized basis using definitions provided by the 504 regulations. The Section 504 regulations define a physical or mental impairment as any physiological or psychological 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; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genito-urinary; lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The regulations do not set forth an exhaustive list of specific diseases and conditions that may constitute physical or mental impairments because of the difficulty of ensuring the comprehensiveness of such a list.

Major life activities, for purposes of determining whether a disability exists, include functions such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, eating,

sleeping, and working. This list is not exhaustive, however, and other functions can be major life activities for purposes of Section 504.

The protections of Section 504 extend only to individuals who are disabled. At the elementary and secondary school levels, determining whether a child is an individual with a disability under Section 504 begins with an “evaluation” process. Section 504’s regulations contemplate the use of “evaluation procedures” that ensure that children are not misclassified; unnecessarily labeled as having a disability; or incorrectly placed, based on inappropriate selection, administration, or interpretation of evaluation materials. If a school district re-evaluates a student in accordance with the Section 504 regulations and determines that the student's mental or physical impairment no longer substantially limits a major life activity, the student should be found to no longer be an individual with a disability.

Public elementary and secondary schools must employ procedural safeguards regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of persons, who because of disability, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services.

Applicable Definitions under Section 504’s Regulations

The United States Department of Education’s regulations found at 34 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §104.3 provide the following applicable definitions to be used in making decisions and providing services to students with disabilities under Section 504:

A. “Qualified disabled person” with respect to public preschool, elementary, secondary, or adult education services means an individual with a disability who is a resident of the school district and who is (i) of an age during which non-disabled persons are provided such services, (ii) of any age during which it is mandatory under state law to provide such services to disabled persons, or (iii) an individual to whom a state is required to provide a free appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

B. “Individual with a disability” means any person who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- Has a record of such an impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such an impairment.

Students who have only environmental, cultural, and/or economic disadvantages are not considered to be disabled under Section 504, unless they also have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. Sexual orientation and gender identity are also not considered, in and of themselves, to be disabilities.

C. **“Physical or mental impairment”** means:

- 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; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genito-urinary; skin; and endocrine; or
- Any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation; emotional/behavioral conditions; and mental illness.

D. **“Major life activities”** means functions such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, eating, sleeping and working. For example, an individual with paralyzed legs is substantially limited in the major life activity of walking since the individual’s impairment makes him/her unable to walk.

E. **“Has a record of an impairment”** means has a history of, or has been misclassified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Someone with a record of an impairment cannot be discriminated against on the basis of having a record of a disability.

F. **“Is regarded as having an impairment”** means:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit major life activities but that is treated by a school district as constituting such a limitation;
- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others towards such an impairment; or
- Has no impairments but is treated by the school district as having such an impairment.

G. **“Substantial Limitation”** is not specifically defined by the 504 regulations. However, regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504’s sister statute, define a substantial limitation to mean that the student is restricted in the manner, condition, or duration in which the student performs a particular major life activity as compared to most students of the same age/grade level in the general student population.

When determining whether a student has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, school districts cannot consider the ameliorative effects of any mitigating measures that a student is using, other than those when ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses are used. Rather, the determination as to whether a student has a disability is to be made as if the student is not using a mitigating measure, such as medication, an assistive device, etc. In addition, an impairment that is episodic or in remission will be a disability under Section 504 if the impairment would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

H. “Educational Placement” (in the Section 504 context) refers to the collection of supplementary/related aids and/or services provided to a student with a disability in the general education classroom as determined necessary to meet the educational needs of that student as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met and as set forth in the student’s 504 Plan.

I. “Supplementary/Related Aids and Services” are typically educational accommodations that are determined necessary by the 504 Team and are set forth in a student’s Section 504 Plan. An accommodation is a change in the educational setting, materials, and/or strategies that does not significantly alter the content of the curriculum or level of expectation for a student’s performance but which allows the student to access the general education curriculum. Examples of accommodations include seating the student in front of the room, providing extended time for testing, providing a student with a highlighted critical text, etc.

PART II

SECTION 504 PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

A. Prior to Referral for 504 Consideration/RTI

Prior to a formal referral for 504 consideration and a disability determination, it may be that a process of intervention has already been initiated. For students who are displaying academic or behavioral difficulties in school, this process often begins with a referral to the school's Response to Intervention ("RTI") program.

1. RTI offers effective strategies for strengthening educational opportunities and servicing students with academic and/or behavioral difficulties in school. RTI strategies are often encouraged before Section 504 referrals are initiated and are particularly important since many accommodations and services can be made during the RTI process.
2. After the classroom teacher implements RTI but the student continues to experience substantial limitations in one or more major life activities, the classroom teacher submits the data collected during the RTI process to designated individuals at the school.
3. Following its review of the RTI data collected, the school may suggest additional interventions, refer the student to the Building Level Section 504 Coordinator, or refer the student to Special Education.

It is important to note that, according to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the duty for a school to refer a student for 504 consideration is triggered upon sufficient "reason to believe" or "reason to suspect" that a student is a student with a disability in need of special accommodations or services. Thus, the RTI process should never be used as a reason for not considering whether a student has a disability under Section 504 if other indicators of a disability are present (i.e., the student is having academic/behavioral difficulties and the parent has provided medical information diagnosing an impairment). This is particularly the case if the parent is making the referral or asking for a 504 evaluation.

B. Formal Referral or Request for a Section 504 Evaluation

An individual (parent/guardian/school staff member) may make a Section 504 referral for a student who is suspected of having a disability under Section 504 by completing a "Referral Form" and submitting it to the Building Level Section 504 Coordinator. (Form A). Examples of circumstances that may merit a Section 504 referral include, but are not limited to:

- disciplinary infractions or suspensions over an extended period of time which are excessive or repetitive, including truancy and excessive absenteeism;

- consideration for retention;
- poor academic performance;
- a return to school after a serious illness or injury;
- a documented medical diagnosis by an outside agency or service provider;
- • a finding by an IDEA/IEP Team, after an evaluation, that the student does not qualify for special education services;
- a chronic health problem that is substantially limiting a major life activity;
- substance abuse issues, but the student is not currently “using” addictive substances; or
- failure to respond effectively to RTI intervention strategies as reflected by data collected.

Upon the Building Level Section 504 Coordinator’s receipt of a Section 504 referral, the parent/guardian will be provided a “Notice of Proposed Meeting” (Form B), as well as the “Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards” (Form C). At the initial 504 referral meeting, a decision will be made by the 504 Team as to whether to proceed with a full Section 504 evaluation. If the referral is not deemed necessary because there is no reason to believe or suspect that a disability exists, the parent/guardian will be provided a copy of the “Notice of Intent Regarding Evaluation/Reevaluation.” (Form D).

In facilitating a Section 504 referral, it is the responsibility of the Building Level Section 504 Coordinator to:

- Provide the parent/guardian notice of the referral meeting (Form B), along with a copy of the parent/guardian procedural safeguards (Form C);
- Select and appoint the Section 504 Team members and ensure their attendance and participation at the meeting;
- Guide the Team in determining what, if any, testing or additional records/information may be needed to make a proper disability determination;
- Guide the Team in determining whether there is sufficient reason to suspect or believe that the student is a student with a disability in order to accept the referral;
- Provide notice to the parent of the intent of the team regarding a Section 504 evaluation.
- Provide the parent/guardian with Section 504 evaluation/disability/504 plan determination (Form F), along with a copy of the parent/guardian procedural safeguards (Form C).

C. Evaluation/Disability and 504 Plan Determination Process

If a student is accepted for a 504 evaluation, the evaluation and data collection process should be completed in a timely manner. Absent unusual circumstances, the school should complete the evaluation process within 60 calendar days. An evaluation under Section 504 could, but does not necessarily require, the administration of formal assessments, but does include the

gathering and examination of all relevant information regarding the student for review by the 504 Team.

In facilitating a Section 504 evaluation, it is the responsibility of the Building Level Section 504 Coordinator to:

- Determine what testing or additional records may be needed for the 504 Team to make a proper disability determination as part of its evaluation;
- Provide teacher(s) with the “Section 504 Observation/Input form” (Form E) to complete and to be considered by the 504 Team;
- After completion of the gathering of relevant data, provide notice of the disability determination meeting to the parents (Form B), along with a copy of the parent/guardian procedural safeguards (Form C);
- Select and appoint the Section 504 Team members and ensure their attendance and participation at the meeting;
- Ensure that all documentation necessary to complete the “Section 504 Evaluation/Disability/504 Plan Determination Documentation” form (Form F) has been gathered prior to the meeting; and
- Provide the parent/guardian with the Section 504 Evaluation/Disability/504 Plan Determination (Form F), along with a copy of the parent/guardian procedural safeguards (Form C).

If the 504 Team determines that the student meets the definition of disability under Section 504, then the Team must also determine whether a Section 504 Plan is required and should be developed for the student in order that his/her educational needs are met as adequately as the educational needs of non-disabled students. If the team determines a need, a 504 Plan may be developed at the time of the disability determination meeting or at a subsequent meeting, if appropriate. Absent unusual circumstances, the Plan should be developed within 30 calendar days after the determination is made that the student is disabled and that a 504 Plan is needed. The Building Level Section 504 Coordinator shall ensure that a copy of any Plan that is developed is provided to the student’s teachers and other service providers, so that it is properly implemented. Documentation of receipt of the Plan by all service providers shall be obtained. (Form I). In addition, a copy of any 504 Plan developed (Form G) should be provided to the parent/guardian, along with another copy of the Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards (Form C).

If the Team determines that the student does not have a disability under Section 504, the Team shall refer the student back for possible identification of any needed classroom intervention strategies as stated in the District’s RTI plan or otherwise. Regardless of the determinations made, the parent/guardian should always be provided a copy of the Form F, along with a copy of the “Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards” (Form C).

D. Discipline Procedures for Students Who are Disabled under Section 504

A student who has been determined to be disabled (whether he/she has a Section 504 Plan or not) may not be subjected to a disciplinary removal from school for more than 10 school days unless the Section 504 Team first determines that the behavior giving rise to the disciplinary action was not substantially related to the student's disabling condition or due to inappropriate implementation of an existing Section 504 Plan. This process is to be carried out in a manifestation determination meeting. (Form J). Suspensions for less than 10 school days may be effectuated without holding a Section 504 Team Meeting. A series of short-term suspensions over the course of the school year that would amount to a total of more than 10 school days in that school year may also require that a Section 504 manifestation determination meeting be held, depending upon the pattern of those short-term removals.

When making a manifestation determination, a Section 504 Team must meet to address the following questions:

- Was the misconduct caused by, or directly and substantially related to, the student's identified disability?
- Was the misconduct a direct result of the school's failure to implement the student's Section 504 Plan?

If the Section 504 Team determines that there is no direct and substantial relationship between the conduct and the student's disability and that a Section 504 Plan was properly implemented, the school may proceed to discipline the student in the same manner as it would a non-disabled student.

If the Section 504 Team determines that there is a substantial link between the conduct and the student's disability or that a Section 504 Plan was not properly implemented, the Section 504 Team must review and/or revise the Section 504 Plan to address the student's conduct, rather than subjecting the student to further disciplinary removal from school. If it is determined that the student should be moved to another setting, notice of this determination must be given to the student's parents by providing them with a copy of Form J (Manifestation Determination), along with a copy of the 504 procedural safeguards (Form C).

Special Note: A student with a 504 disability who is currently using illegal drugs or alcohol and is to be disciplined by the school for such behavior loses the procedural protections provided by Section 504, including the right to a manifestation determination review prior to a change in placement for disciplinary reasons. This would hold true even if the disabling condition could be related to the misconduct.

E. Transfer Students

In the case of a student with a disability under Section 504 who is transferring into Crenshaw County Schools, a Section 504 Team will assemble within 10 school days of the student's

enrollment to determine if the current disability determination and/or Section 504 Plan is appropriate and can be implemented as written. In the case of a student with a 504 Plan, the Section 504 Team may revise the student's current Plan and/or request further evaluation and/or information. If further evaluation or information is requested, the student will be provided an interim Section 504 Plan while additional data are being collected. Following the implementation of an interim Section 504 Plan, the Section 504 Team should generally meet within sixty (60) calendar days to review the disability determination and/or the current Section 504 Plan.

F. Parental Complaint Procedures

If parents/guardians disagree with any Section 504 Team's decision regarding their child's identification, evaluation or educational program/placement under Section 504, they have the right to challenge the decision by filing an informal grievance, requesting a mediation meeting, or requesting an impartial 504 due process hearing. Parents/guardians may also file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) if they believe they or their child have been discriminated against under Section 504 or are being retaliated against because of their efforts to obtain an appropriate education for the student.

1. Section 504 Informal Grievance with the District's 504 Compliance Coordinator

If parents/guardians believe their Section 504 rights or their child's Section 504 rights are being violated, they may file a grievance with the Section 504 Compliance Coordinator using Form K. The 504 Compliance Coordinator for Crenshaw County Schools is Mrs. Sherry Sport. She may be reached at 334-335-6519 or by mail at 183 Votec Drive Luverne, Alabama 36049.

2. Section 504 Mediation Meeting

Mediation is a less formal and less adversarial method of resolving disputes than a due process hearing. During mediation, parents/guardians and school representatives voluntarily meet with an impartial mediator to resolve disagreements with the school's decisions or actions regarding identification, evaluation, educational program, or placement of the student. Any agreements reached between the school and the parents/guardians during the mediation process will be set forth in a written mediation agreement. Parents/guardians may request mediation by submitting Form L to the Crenshaw County Schools' 504 Compliance Coordinator.

3. Section 504 Impartial Due Process Hearing

A parent/guardian may request an impartial due process hearing with respect to actions on the part of the District regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of his/her child under Section 504. Claims of general discrimination are subject to the grievance procedures set forth in subsection 1 above.

Requests by parents/guardians for a 504 due process hearing must be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of the action being challenged. A Section 504 due process complaint form is provided at Form M.. The request for a Section 504 impartial due process hearing must be submitted to the Crenshaw County Schools' Section 504 Compliance Coordinator, Mrs. Sherry Sport. She may be reached at 334-335-6519 or by mail at 183 Votec Drive Luverne, Alabama 36049.

If an impartial 504 hearing has been properly requested, the District will appoint an impartial hearing officer who will preside over the due process hearing and will conduct the proceedings in an impartial manner. At the hearing, the parties will have the opportunity to present evidence, confront and cross-examine witnesses, produce expert testimony, and be represented by legal counsel, if they choose to hire counsel. The hearing officer shall review relevant facts and render a written decision on the issue(s) presented for review.

The hearing officer's decision shall be delivered to the District and the parent/guardian within thirty (30) days following the completion of the hearing, which shall be not later than sixty (60) days after the receipt by the District of the written request for a hearing, unless extended by consent of the parent/guardian and the District.

4. Civil Rights Complaint with OCR

Parents may file a formal complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) if they believe they or their child are being discriminated against on the basis of disability. A Section 504 due process hearing is not required prior to filing an OCR complaint. The address of the Office for Civil Rights is Office for Civil Rights, 61 Forsyth Street, Suite 19T70, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
REFERRAL FORM
(Attach additional pages if needed)
Form A

This completed form should be returned to the Building Level Section 504 Coordinator.

Student's Name: _____ **Age:** ____ **DOB** _____

Grade: _____ **Teacher's Name:** _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Person Initiating Referral: _____ **Position:** _____

Please answer the following questions:

1. Reason for referral: _____

2. Describe the student's physical or mental impairment(s)

3. Which of the following major life activities do you believe is substantially limited by the physical impairment(s) described above? (check ALL that apply):

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| performing manual tasks | eating |
| walking | reading |
| seeing | concentrating |
| hearing | thinking |
| speaking | communicating |
| breathing | other _____ |
| learning | |

4. Describe interventions/strategies being used to address the student's difficulties, if any:

Signature

Date

Date received by School

Received by

**Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
NOTICE OF PROPOSED MEETING
Form B**

Date: _____

To the Parent(s) or Guardian(s) of: _____ **Grade:** _____
(name of student)

Date of Meeting: _____ **Time:** _____ **Location:** _____

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Conduct an Annual Review of the 504 Plan
- Discuss the need for additional data collection
- Determine whether a disability is or continues to be present under Section 504
- To determine the need for or to develop an initial Section 504 Plan
- To conduct a Manifestation Determination for disciplinary purposes

The following people will be invited to the meeting:

- Building Level Section 504 Coordinator
- Administrator
- General Education Teacher
- Parent
- Student

Please bring the following information or records with you to the meeting: _____

Signature of Building Level Section 504 Coordinator/Designee

Enclosure: Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

***Please check on of the following boxes and sign, date, and return the form to _____ before _____ (date).**

- I will be able to meet with you
- I cannot meet at the time and date indicated. Please contact me to arrange another time.
- I will not be able to meet with you. I will contact you if I want more information.

Signature of Parent, Guardian or adult student

Date

Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
PARENT/GUARDIAN/STUDENT PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS AND RIGHTS
UNDER SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT
Form C

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with qualifying disabilities have the right to receive a free appropriate public education, which includes the right to an education with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate. Students with disabilities covered under Section 504 include those who have an Individual Health Care Plan or those who are being educated via a Hospital/Homebound Plan.

In particular, the enabling regulations for Section 504, as set out in 34 CFR Part 104, provide parents and/or students with the following rights:

1. Your child has the right to an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment that is designed to meet his/her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met.
2. Your child has the right to free educational services, except for those fees that are imposed on nondisabled students or their parents. Insurers and similar third parties are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student.
3. Your child has a right to non-discrimination and to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students.
4. Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to an initial Section 504 determination and placement and any subsequent significant change of placement.
5. Placement decisions must be made by a group of persons (i.e., the Section 504 Team), including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities.
6. You have the right to examine relevant records prior to any action by the District in regard to the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child or upon request.
7. You have the right to an impartial hearing with respect to the District's actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement. You have the right to participate and to be represented by an attorney at your expense.
8. You have the right to obtain copies of your child's educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
9. You have the right to receive a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records
10. You have the right 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.

11. You may challenge the actions of the District's Section 504 Team in regard to your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, by requesting a due process hearing with the District's Section 504 Coordinator, **Mrs. Sherry Sport**, within 30 calendar days from the time you received written notice of the Section 504 Team's action(s). A due process hearing will be scheduled before an impartial hearing officer and you will be notified in writing of the date, time, and place for the hearing. You have the right to participate in the hearing and to be represented by counsel if you choose. If you disagree with the decision of the impartial hearing officer, you have a right to request a review of the decision in a court of competent jurisdiction.
12. On Section 504 matters other than your child's identification, evaluation, and/or placement, you have a right to file a grievance with the District's Section 504 Coordinator, who will investigate the allegations to the extent warranted by the nature of the grievance in an effort to reach a prompt and equitable resolution.
13. You also have a right to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights if you believe that you or your child has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability. The contact information is as follows: Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, 61 Forsyth Street S.W., Suite 19T70, Atlanta, GA 30303-3104. Telephone: (404)562-6350 Fax: (404) 562- 6455. Email: OCR.Atlanta@ed.gov.

**Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**

**NOTICE OF INTENT REGARDING EVALUATION/REEVALUATION
Form D**

To Parents/Guardian of: _____ Grade: _____
(name of student)

School: _____

From: _____ Date: _____
Building Level Section 504 Coordinator

Your child has been referred for evaluation / reevaluation to determine if he/she is a student with a disability under Section 504 and whether he/she is in need of reasonable accommodations and/or related services under Section 504.

The Section 504 Team met to determine whether or not the referral for your child is appropriate and whether the evaluation/reevaluation is needed.

**The team decided that it will not proceed with a Section 504 evaluation.
The team decided that it will proceed with a Section 504 evaluation.**

We propose to evaluate the following checked areas:

- Vision**
- Hearing**
- Academic Achievement**
- Behavior**
- Classroom Performance**
- Other _____**

If an evaluation is needed, you will be notified of the results of such evaluation within a reasonable time and the team will review the results with you.

Sincerely,

Building Level Section 504 Coordinator/Designee

Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
SECTION 504 CLASSROOM TEACHER OBSERVATION/INPUT FORM
Form E

Teacher: _____ Date: _____

Subject Taught: _____

Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Complete the following teacher information and return this form within five (5) days to enable the Section 504 Team to consider it as part of its Section 504 evaluation of the above-named student.

TEACHER OBSERVATIONS

Based on your knowledge and observation, please rate this student's performance in the following areas as compared to his or her peers:

OBSERVATIONS	UNSATISFACTORY					EXCELLENT
Classroom Work	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.
Homework	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.
Tests	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.
Reading Performance	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.
Math Performance (if applicable)	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.
Written Performance	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.
Following Oral Directions	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.
Attendance/Timeliness to Class	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.
Attention Span	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.
Organizational Skills	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS CONCERNS	RESULTS
Sent Reports Home	
Talked with Counselor	
Rearranged Seating	
Preferential/Isolated Seating	
Ignored Behavior	
Referred to Administrator	
Contracts	

Section 504 Teacher Observation Form - Page 2 of 2

ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS CONCERNS		RESULTS
	Assigned Notebook	
	Tutoring	
	Alternative Assignments	
	Additional Time for Assignments	
	Small Group Instruction	
	Cooperative Learning	
	Peer Tutoring	
	Parent Conference	
	Other	

BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS

Check observed behavioral characteristics that adversely affect this student's performance.

Shyness	Moody	Anxious
Rejected by Peers	Daydreams	Aggressive
Irritable	Need Constant Encouragement	Disruptive
Distractible	Quarrelsome	Withdrawn

EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL/SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Indicate (+) for strengths; (-) for areas of concern.

	Generally cooperates/is compliant with teacher requests.		Adapts to new situations without getting upset.
	Accepts responsibility for own actions.		Makes and keeps friends at school.
	Works cooperatively with others his/her own age.		Has an even, usually happy disposition.
	Is pleased with good work		Independently initiates activities.
	Consistently demonstrates behavior appropriate for his/her age.		

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

Student meets standards of personal independence expected of chronological age/culture group	YES	NO
Student Meets standards of social responsibility expected of the chronological age/culture group	YES	NO

DISCIPLINE

Is discipline an area of concern? If yes, explain:	YES	NO
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**SECTION 504 EVALUATION/DISABILITY/504 PLAN
DETERMINATION DOCUMENTATION
Form F**

Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

SECTION 504 EVALUATION MEETING

A Section 504 Evaluation Meeting has been scheduled for: Date _____ Time: _____

The following items have been provided to the parent/guardian:

Notice of Section 504 Meeting	Date Sent:	Sent by:
Notice of Section 504 Intent to Evaluate/Reevaluate	Date Sent:	Sent by:
Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	Date Sent:	Sent by:

Parent/guardian has responded to Section 504 Meeting notice: Will attend Will not attend No Response

Reason for Section 504 Meeting:

Initial Section 504 Evaluation Re-evaluation Section 504 Manifestation Determination

DATA COLLECTION

TEACHER OBSERVATION (See attached Form E)

ACHIEVEMENT DATA

List Most Recent Achievement Test Scores (if available)

Subject	Grade Tested	Current Grad	Percentiles
Reading Vocabulary			
Reading Comprehension			
Mathematics			
Language Arts			
Social Studies			
Science			

This student's test scores:

- have been higher each year
- have stayed about the same each year
- have become worse each year
- have suddenly dropped
- data not available

Current Grades

Subject	Grade

This student's grades:

- have become better each year
- have stayed about the same each year
- have become lower each year
- sudden drop in grades
- data not available

Compared with most of the other students in this school, this student's grades:

- are better
- are about the same
- are worse
- data not available

Has this student been retained? Yes No

If yes, at which grade level(s): _____

DISCIPLINARY HISTORY (see attachment)

HOME LANGUAGE SURVEY

Student's language is: _____ Home language is: _____

English Language Learner? Yes No

If yes, is this student's language contributing to the student's lack of achievement in school? Yes No

VISION/HEARING

	Vision	Hearing
Screening Date		
Screening Results		

PHYSICAL/MENTAL IMPAIRMENT

Yes No Is there documentation or other evidence of a physical or mental condition?
If YES, explain and describe or attach:

Yes No Is the student currently taking medication at home or at school? If YES, explain:

Yes No Is there a physical impairment that requires specialized accommodation with the school environment? If YES, explain:

Other Information (optional)

ATTENDANCE

Days Present: _____ Days Absent: _____

Number of School Changes: _____ (Current School Year) _____

SECTION 504 DISABILITY/504 PLAN DETERMINATION

Based upon review of evaluation data from a variety of sources, the Section 504 Team must answer the following questions to determine whether the student is disabled under Section 504 and, if so, whether the student needs a 504 Plan:

1. Does the student have a physical or mental impairment?
 YES NO

If YES, describe the impairment.

2. Does the physical or mental impairment substantially limit a major life activity? (That is, as a result of the physical or mental impairment, is the student restricted as to the condition, manner or duration under which the student can perform a particular major life activity as compared to the condition, manner, or duration under which most students of the same age/grade level in the general population can perform that same major life activity? Section 504 requires that when making this determination, the Team cannot consider the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures, except for ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses. In addition, the fact that the impairment is episodic or in remission does not preclude a finding of disability if the impairment would substantially limit a major life activity when active).

YES Major life activity impaired: _____ NO NA

If YES, what documentation/evidence is there to support the claim of a substantial limitation?

3. If the answers to 1 and 2 above are yes, the student is disabled under Section 504 and the need for a Section 504 Plan must then be determined. If the student does have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, does the student need special educational accommodations or related services in order to have his/her educational needs met as adequately as the educational needs of non-disabled peers are met?

YES

NO

Not applicable because the student is not disabled.

4. Based upon all data reviewed and answers to the above questions, it is the determination of the 504 Team that:

CHECK ONE:

The student is not disabled under Section 504 because there is no physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

The student is disabled because there is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity and services are needed so that the student's educational needs are met as adequately as those of nondisabled peers. A Section 504 Plan will be developed

The student is disabled because there is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. However, the student's educational needs are met as adequately as the educational needs of nondisabled peers and special services are not needed. A 504 Plan will not be developed, but it is understood that the student is protected by Section 504's antidiscrimination provisions and that the school cannot discriminate against the student on the basis of disability.

The student is disabled but is not in need of a Section 504 Plan because the student's educational needs are met as adequately as those of nondisabled peers because of the positive effect(s) of mitigating measures currently in use. The need for a Section 504 Plan will be addressed again should the positive effect(s) of mitigating measures currently in use no longer exist. While the student currently is not in need of educational services, it is understood that the student is protected by Section 504's antidiscrimination provisions and that the school cannot discriminate against the student on the basis of the disability.

The student is disabled because there is an episodic physical or mental impairment that, when active, substantially limits a major life activity, and services are needed in order that the student's educational needs are met as adequately as those of nondisabled students. A Section 504 Plan will be developed that will be implemented when the impairment is active. When the impairment is not active, the 504 Plan will not be implemented, but it is understood that the student will still be protected by Section 504's antidiscrimination provisions and the school cannot discriminate against the student on the basis of disability.

The student is disabled because there is a physical or mental impairment that is in remission but, when active, substantially limits a major life activity, and services are needed in order that the student's educational needs are met as adequately as those of nondisabled peers. The need for a Section 504 Plan will be addressed if/when the impairment comes out of remission. When the impairment is inactive, it is understood that the student is protected by Section 504's antidiscrimination provisions and that the school cannot discriminate against the student on the basis of disability.

Section 504 Evaluation/Eligibility Determination Documentation – Page 5 of 5

The following Section 504 Team members acknowledge by their signatures their participation in this Section 504 evaluation, disability and 504 Plan determination.

<u>NAME (Please print)</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Position</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

The Section 504 Team met to evaluate your child to determine if he/she has a disability under Section 504 and whether a 504 Plan is needed. The attached “Section 504 Evaluation/Disability/504 Plan Determination Documentation” (Form F) summarizes the results of these determinations. Parents/guardians have the right to challenge the District’s actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability under Section 504 in several ways. Should you wish to do so, please contact the District’s 504 Coordinator for further information: Dr. Tim Havard Section 504 Coordinator Auburn City Schools 855 E. Samford Avenue Auburn, AL 36831 Phone: 334-887-1921 Attachment: Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards (Form C)

The Section 504 Team met to evaluate your child to determine if he/she has a disability under Section 504 and whether a 504 Plan is needed. The attached “Section 504 Evaluation/Disability/504 Plan Determination Documentation” (Form F) summarizes the results of these determinations.

Parents/guardians have the right to challenge the District’s actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability under Section 504 in several ways. Should you wish to do so, please contact the District’s 504 Coordinator for further information:

<p>Mrs. Sherry Sport Section 504 Coordinator Crenshaw County Schools 183 Votec Drive Luverne, AL 36049 (334)335-6519</p>
--

Attachment: Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards (Form C)

**Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
SECTION 504 PLAN
Form G**

Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Plan: _____ Project Re-Evaluation Date: _____

Indicate here the student's disability.

--

Indicate below the specific area(s) of educational impact and the type of related accommodation(s) needed to meet the educational needs of this student as adequately as the educational needs of non-disabled students are met, e.g., changes in the classroom environment, changes in testing procedures, use of various classroom materials, teaching strategies to be employed, etc. In addition, indicate who will be responsible for ensuring the provision of each accommodation (teacher, student, parent/guardian, counselor, school nurse, etc.).

Areas of Educational Impact:

BEHAVIOR

Consider the student's behavior and determine whether the student is in need of a Behavior Management Plan.

The student is in need of a Behavior Intervention Plan.

The student is not in need of a Behavior Intervention Plan.

TESTING

Consider whether the student's disability will have an effect on the student's participation in state and district-wide assessments:

The student should be able to participate in state and district-wide assessments without any accommodations provided.

The student requires accommodations to participate in state and district-wide assessments, with accommodations to be specified in the Section 504 Plan.

RELATED SERVICES AND/OR ACCOMMODATION(S) TO BE PROVIDED (Specify person(s) responsible as well as location and frequency of services and accommodations).

Section 504/Form G

Crenshaw County Schools

Section 504 Plan Page ____ of ____

I am in agreement with the Section 504 Plan specified above.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Position</u>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

I am not in agreement with the Section 504 Plan Specified above.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Position</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

_____	_____
Date	Parent/Guardian

Enclosure: Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards (Form C)

Parents/guardians have the right to challenge the District's actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability under Section 504 in several ways. Should you wish to do so, please contact the District's 504 Coordinator for further information:

<p>Mrs. Sherry Sport Section 504 Coordinator Crenshaw County Schools 183 Votec Drive Luverne, AL 36049 (334)335-6519</p>
--

**Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
SECTION 504 BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION PLAN
Form H**

(Complete this form only if Behavior Intervention Plan is needed)

Student: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

School: _____ **Grade:** _____

The behavior intervention plan outlined below will begin for the above-named student as of (date): _____

Behavior(s) of the student that are targeted for intervention:

Types of appropriate behavioral interventions for the student:

Set clearly defined limits

Seat student near teacher

Use predetermined signaling

device to cue student that a specified behavior is desired

Supervision during

unstructured time

Reduce distracting stimuli

Use praise to reinforce appropriate behaviors

Assign peers to work with student

Give frequent reminder of rules

Use journal of daily or weekly behaviors

Prompt student to go to a quiet area in a class where noise and activity are not allowed

Provide student with a consistent routine (daily or weekly schedule of events)

Other Intervention(s) Specify:

Should a behavioral contract with the student be provided? YES NO

If so, specify below the type of behavior expected and the type reinforcement to be used:

Section 504 Behavior Intervention Plan - Page 2 of 2

Should a system of rewards/affirmations for desired behaviors and consequences for opposite behaviors be provided?

YES

NO

Desired Behavior	Rewards/Affirmations for Desired Behavior	Consequences for Undesirable Behavior	Personnel Responsible

Specify the form of communication to be used to advise parent(s)/guardian(s) of progress or lack of progress made:

Daily Tracking Form

Weekly Tracking Form

Notes Home

Phone Calls

Parent Conference

I am in agreement with the Behavior Intervention Plan specified above.

Date

Signature

Position

I am not in agreement with the Behavior Intervention Plan Specified above.

Date

Signature

Position

Parents/guardians have the right to challenge the District's actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability under Section 504 in several ways. Should you wish to do so, please contact the District's 504 Coordinator for further information:

<p>Mrs. Sherry Sport Section 504 Coordinator Crenshaw County Schools 183 Votec Drive Luverne, AL 36049 (334)335-6519</p>

**Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT
OF SECTION 504 PLAN
Form I**

Date: _____

From: _____
Building Level Section 504 Coordinator/Designee

Attached is a copy of the Section 504 plan to be implemented as a result of the Section 504 Team's decisions regarding the following student:

Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

It is imperative that the accommodations written in the Section 504 plan be fully implemented so that the District is in compliance with Section 504, a federal law that establishes protections for students with disabilities. Failure to comply with Section 504 may result in an investigation and ruling by the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Such a ruling could result in the loss of all District federal funds, as well as personal civil rights suits against District employees who intentionally fail to comply with the law.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Section 504 Plan

Signature

Date

Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 Of the Rehabilitation Act
SECTION 504 MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION
Form J

(To be used before any significant change in placement made for disciplinary reasons for a student determined by a 504 Team to be disabled under Section 504.)

Date of Section 504 Manifestation Determination Meeting: _____

Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Describe the specific misbehavior/actions of the student that are the basis for considering a change in placement (removal for more than 10 school days) for disciplinary reasons.

Document the data reviewed including relevant information from the "Section 504 Evaluation/Disability/504 Plan Documentation" form (Form E).

- | | | |
|----|-------------|---|
| 1. | Yes No | Was the misconduct caused by, or directly and substantially related to, the student's disability? |
| 2. | Yes No | Was the misconduct a direct result of the District's failure to implement a Section 504 Plan? |

*If the answer to either of these two questions is YES, then the determination is that the disciplinary behavior is a manifestation of the child's disability. On the other hand, if the answer to both is NO, then the disciplinary behavior is not a manifestation of the child's disability.

Section 504 Manifestation Determination - Page 2 of 3

The Section 504 Team has determined that the behavior being considered for disciplinary action is not a manifestation of the student's disability and the student may be disciplined in the same manner as non-disabled students

The Section 504 Team has determined that the behavior being considered for disciplinary action is a manifestation of the student's disability and, as a result, the student's behavior will be addressed in the following manner:

ATTACHMENT: "Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973" (Form C)

Section 504 Manifestation Determination - Page 3 of 3

I am in agreement with the Section 504 Manifestation Determination.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Position</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I am not in agreement with the section 504 Manifestation Determination

<u>Date</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Position</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Parents/guardians have the right to challenge the District's actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability under Section 504 in several ways. Should you wish to do so, please contact the District's 504 Coordinator for further information:

Mrs. Sherry Sport
Section 504 Coordinator
Crenshaw County Schools
183 Votec Drive
Luverne, AL 36049
(334)335-6519

Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE FORM
Form K

Last Name: _____ First Name/MI: _____

Street Address/Apt. #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Message/Work Phone: _____

Concerning: _____

Name of Student: _____ Name of School: _____

Please check below - This complaint concerns:

A violation of Section 504 policy/procedure.

A disagreement with the District's Section 504 decisions to identify, evaluate, and/or to make accommodations for a student.

Disability-based discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

Other: _____

1. Please give facts about your grievance. Provide details such as names of those involved, relevant dates, whether witnesses were present, etc., that might be helpful to the resolution process.

Section 504 Grievance Form - Page 2 of 2

2. Please supply copies of any written documents that may be relevant to/supportive of your grievance.

I have attached supporting documents: Yes No

3. Please state the resolution results you are seeking.

4. Have you discussed with or brought your grievance to any District personnel? If you have, to whom did you make your grievance and what was the result?

*I certify that the above is true and correct:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For office use only: Date received: _____ Initial: _____

Attach additional sheets for details if needed. Mail grievance/documents to:
Mrs. Sherry Sport
Section 504 Coordinator
Crenshaw County Schools
183 Votec Drive
Luverne, AL 36049
Phone: (334)335-6519

Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
SECTION 504 MEDIATION REQUEST FORM
Form L

Last Name: _____ First Name/MI: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Message/Work Phone: _____

Concerning: _____

Name of Student: _____ Name of School: _____

I wish to request a formal mediation session. The mediator will assist the school and parent/guardian in resolving disagreements about the Section 504 process or content.

The basis of this complain involves:

A violation of Section 504 policy/procedure.

A disagreement with the District's Section 504 decisions to identify, evaluate, and/or make accommodations for a student.

Disability-based discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

Other: _____

Please give facts about your complaint. Provide any details that you believe are pertinent to the mediator in preparation for hearing the case. Provide attachments to this request, if necessary.

Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
SECTION 504 REQUEST FOR DUE PROCESS HEARING FORM
Form M

This form is to be completed when an impartial hearing is being requested by a parent/guardian to challenge District action regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of his/her child under Section 504. The request must be made within 30 days of the parent's receipt of notification of the District's action and submitted to the District's 504 Compliance Coordinator.

Requesting Part:

Parent/Guardian
Representative

Student Information:

Student's Last Name: _____ First: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Date of Birth: Month: _____ Day: _____ Year: _____

Student's 504 Disability or Alleged 504 Disability: _____

Student's Grade: _____

Student's Address: _____

Name of School the Student is Attending: _____

Parent/Student Representative Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Statement of Issues and Proposed Resolution

I, _____, the undersigned, file this request for an impartial hearing under Section 504 against the Crenshaw County School District.

Section 504 Hearing Request Form - Page 3 of 3

I certify that the above is true and correct:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For office use only: Date received: _____ Initial: _____

Attach additional sheets for details if needed. Mail this and other documents to:
Mrs. Sherry Sport
Section 504 Coordinator
Crenshaw County Schools
183 Votec Drive
Luverne, AL 36049
Phone: (334)335-6519

Homebound and Hospital Instruction Procedures

General Procedures

In accordance with School Board Policy, Crenshaw County Schools provides homebound instruction as a service to students who are not able to attend school for medical and/or mental health reasons. If a student's anticipated duration of absence from school exceeds 3 weeks, the student will be eligible to request services under the provisions of these procedures.

To be considered for homebound services, a student's parent/guardian must present written documentation from a licensed physician, psychiatrist or psychologist prior to consideration for services. In addition, a student may become eligible for homebound services based upon a finding by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Team that homebound services are necessary and appropriate for the student. In all cases, the appropriate Committee/Team shall provide a copy of IDEA procedural safeguards to students with IEPs and a 504 Form C to parents of all other students.

The purpose of homebound instruction is to help students keep up with their work even though they are unable to attend school or have been excluded from school for disciplinary reasons. IEP/504 teams may, in accordance with state and federal guidelines, remove a student from regular attendance and place them on homebound services.

Crenshaw County Schools shall provide homebound instruction to students with and without disabilities. In accordance with appropriate state and federal provisions, ACS will provide homebound services based upon the following guidelines:

1. In the case of a student not otherwise in need of special education and related services or services under Section 504, homebound or hospitalized instruction shall maintain the continuity of the student's regular program. The requirements of IEP development or 504 Plan development shall not apply and a school committee consisting of an administrator and pertinent teachers of the student shall coordinate services for the student based on his/her individual needs.
2. In the case of a student not previously receiving special education and related services or services under Section 504, an individualized plan may apply if there is reason to believe that the student needs or may continue to need special education or Section 504 services.
3. In the case of a child receiving special education and related services or services under Section 504, the IEP Team/504 Team shall, where necessary, modify the individualized education program and its instructional goals and objectives as necessary and in accordance with all state and federal provisions to reflect the need for and provision of homebound services. Nothing in this procedure may limit the ability of the IEP team to determine the specifics of a "free appropriate public education."

Homebound Services Plan

1. Students without an IEP or 504 Plan.

- a) When it is anticipated that a student will be absent in excess of three weeks due to an illness or other temporary medical condition, the principal, school counselor, nurse or parent shall contact the 504 Coordinator.**
- b) A Homebound Services Referral Form shall be forwarded to the parent and/or physician. A completed referral, including a parent signature and appropriate physician documentation is required prior to any homebound services beginning.**
- c) Once the referral is completed, a School 504 Committee shall meet and review the referral. The committee shall consist of the pertinent members as described in Section C of the Crenshaw County Schools Section 504 Manual.**
- d) If the committee approves the referral, the Principal, or his/her administrative designee, shall complete, in consultation with the parent of the student, a Homebound Services Plan**
- e) A member of the committee will meet with the parent to provide copies of the Homebound Services Plan and will also provide a copy of the district's Section 504 Parental Rights. The Homebound Services Plan will fall under the procedural requirements of the district's Section 504 policy.**
- f) The principal, or his/her designee, shall make arrangements with a teacher from the school who can deliver homebound services to the student. If no teacher from the student's school is available to serve as the homebound instructor, the 504 Coordinator shall assist in locating a homebound instructor. The homebound instructor will complete a Contract for Provision of Homebound Services with the Special Education Services Department prior to delivery of any instructional services.**

2. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan and/or those for whom it is anticipated that eligibility may occur due to the nature of the condition or illness.

- a) Students with, or anticipated to possibly have, a disability as a result of a medical condition will have their information reviewed by a school level IEP/504 team.**
- b) All deliberations regarding students who are eligible, or anticipated to need evaluation to determine if they are eligible, under IDEA or Section 504 will follow district policies and procedures as well as all state and federal statutes.**
- c) Change of placement requirements will apply to any student with disabilities who is placed on hospitalized or homebound instruction**

Crenshaw County Schools
183 Votec Drive
Luverne, AL 36049

Homebound Services Referral Form

Student's Name: _____ Date of Request: _____

School the Child Attends: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

Student's Address: _____

Student's Date of Birth: _____ Last Day Attended: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Anticipated Date of Return to School: _____

For Use by Physician

1. Diagnosis:

2. Estimated Duration: _____

3. Degree of Restriction:

- a. _____ Part-time attendance
- b. _____ Homebound Tutoring
- c. _____ Hospital Placement

4. Other Recommendations or Comments:

Date: _____

Physicians Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Crenshaw County Schools
183 Votec Drive
Luverne, AL 36049

Homebound Services Plan

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

School the Child Attends: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

Student's Address: _____

Homebound Instructor: _____

Beginning Date for Homebound Instruction: _____

Anticipated Length of Homebound Instruction: _____

Location of Homebound Instruction: _____

Student's Current Academic Information

Current Course	Regular Teacher	Minutes of Instruction Weekly	Homebound Instruction Needed (Time per week)

Number of Hours of Homebound Instruction per week: _____

Signature: _____
Principal/Assistant Principal

Date Approved

Crenshaw County Schools
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
PARENT/GUARDIAN/STUDENT PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS AND RIGHTS
UNDER SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT
Form C

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with qualifying disabilities have the right to receive a free appropriate public education, which includes the right to an education with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate. Students with disabilities covered under Section 504 include those who have an Individual Health Care Plan or those who are being educated via a Hospital/Homebound Plan.

In particular, the enabling regulations for Section 504, as set out in 34 CFR Part 104, provide parents and/or students with the following rights:

1. Your child has the right to an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment that is designed to meet his/her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met.
2. Your child has the right to free educational services, except for those fees that are imposed on nondisabled students or their parents. Insurers and similar third parties are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student.
3. Your child has a right to non-discrimination and to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students.
4. Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to an initial Section 504 determination and placement and any subsequent significant change of placement.
5. Placement decisions must be made by a group of persons (i.e., the Section 504 Team), including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities.
6. You have the right to examine relevant records prior to any action by the District in regard to the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child or upon request.
7. You have the right to an impartial hearing with respect to the District's actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement. You have the right to participate and to be represented by an attorney at your expense.
8. You have the right to obtain copies of your child's educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
9. You have the right to receive a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
10. You have the right 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.

11. You may challenge the actions of the District's Section 504 Team in regard to your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, by requesting a due process hearing with the District's Section 504 Coordinator, Mrs. Sherry Sport, within 30 calendar days from the time you received written notice of the Section 504 Team's action(s). A due process hearing will be scheduled before an impartial hearing officer and you will be notified in writing of the date, time, and place for the hearing. You have the right to participate in the hearing and to be represented by counsel if you choose. If you disagree with the decision of the impartial hearing officer, you have a right to request a review of the decision in a court of competent jurisdiction.
12. On Section 504 matters other than your child's identification, evaluation, and/or placement, you have a right to file a grievance with the District's Section 504 Coordinator, who will investigate the allegations to the extent warranted by the nature of the grievance in an effort to reach a prompt and equitable resolution.
13. You also have a right to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights if you believe that you or your child has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability. The contact information is as follows: Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, 61 Forsyth Street S.W., Suite 19T70, Atlanta, GA 30303-3104. Telephone: (404)562- 6350 Fax: (404) 562-6455. Email: OCR.Atlanta@ed.gov.

SECTION 504 RESOURCES

Possible Section 504 Accommodations/Services/Resources

Section 504 requires that schools provide (for those students who meet the criteria for a Section 504 Plan) supplementary/related aids and/or services in the general education classroom as determined necessary to meet the educational needs of the student as adequately as the needs of his/her non-disabled peers.

Below are some possible aids, services or accommodations that may be appropriate, depending upon the student's individual needs. This list is a resource to be considered by the Section 504 Team as they develop the student's plan. Remember, a student on a Section 504 Plan cannot receive "specially designed instruction" nor services from a Special Education teacher.

Section 1: Related Services/Aids

Speech Therapy

Physical Therapy

Behavioral Services

Occupational Therapy

Specialized Transportation

Counseling

Section 2: Accommodations

PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENT OF ROOM:

- seating student near the teacher
- seating student near a positive role model
- standing near the student when giving directions or presenting lessons
- avoiding distracting stimuli (air conditioner, high traffic area, etc.)
- increasing distance between desks

LESSON PRESENTATION:

- pairing students to check work
- writing key points on the board
- providing peer tutoring
- providing visual aids, large print, films
- providing peer notetaker
- making sure directions are understood
- repeating directions to the student after they have been given to the class: then have him/her repeat and explain directions to teacher
- providing written outline
- allowing student to tape record lessons
- having child review key points orally
- teaching through multi-sensory modes, visual, auditory, kinesthetics, olfactory
- using computer-assisted instruction
- accompany oral directions with written directions for child to refer to blackboard or paper
- provide a model to help students, post the model and refer to it often
- provide cross age peer tutoring
- breaking longer presentations into shorter segments

ASSIGNMENTS/WORKSHEETS

- giving extra time to complete tasks
- simplifying complex directions
- handing worksheets out one at a time
- reducing the reading level of the assignments
- requiring fewer correct responses to achieve grade (quality vs. quantity)
- allowing student to tape record assignments/homework
- providing a structured routine in written form
- providing study skills training/learning strategies
- giving frequent short quizzes and avoiding long tests
- shortening assignments; breaking work into smaller segments
- allowing typewritten or computer printed assignments prepared by the student or dictated by the student and recorded by someone else if needed.
- using self-monitoring devices
- reducing homework assignments
- not grading handwriting
- student should not be allowed to use cursive or manuscript writing
- reversals and transpositions of letters and numbers should not be marked wrong, reversals or transpositions should be pointed out for corrections
- do not require lengthy outside reading assignments
- teacher monitor students self-paced assignments (daily, weekly, bi-weekly)
- arrangements for homework assignments to reach home with clear, concise directions
- recognize and give credit for student's oral participation in class

TEST TAKING:

- allowing open book exams
- giving exam orally
- giving take home tests
- using more objective items (fewer essay responses)
- allowing student to give test answers on tape recorder
- giving frequent short quizzes, not long exams
- allowing extra time for exam
- reading test item to student
- avoid placing student under pressure of time or competition

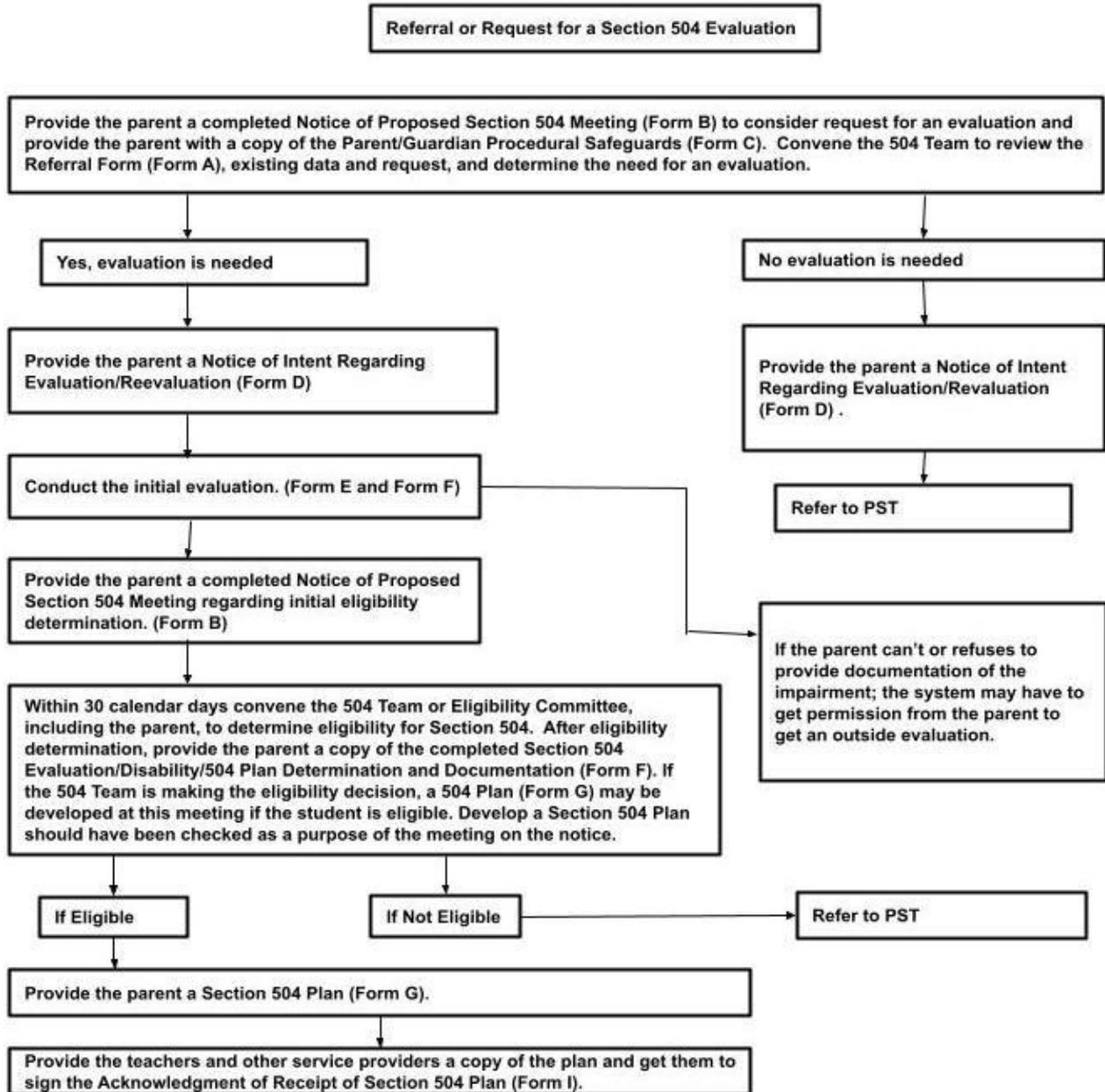
ORGANIZATION:

- providing peer assistance with organizational skills
- assigning volunteer homework buddy
- allowing student to have an extra set of books at home
- sending daily/weekly progress reports home
- developing a reward system for in-schoolwork and homework completion
- providing student with a homework assignment notebook

BEHAVIORS:

- use of timers to facilitate task completion
- structure transitional and unstructured times (recess, hallways, lunchroom, locker room, library, assembly, field trips, etc.)
- praising specific behaviors • using self-monitoring strategies
- giving extra privileges and rewards
- keeping classroom rules simple and clear
- making "prudent use" of negative consequences
- allowing for short breaks between assignments
- cueing student to stay on task (nonverbal signal)
- marking student's correct answers, not his mistakes
- implementing a classroom behavior management system
- allowing student time out of seat to run errands, etc.
- ignoring inappropriate behaviors not drastically outside classroom limits
- allowing legitimate movement
- contracting with the student
- increasing the immediacy of rewards
- implementing time-out procedures

Crenshaw County Schools
SECTION 504 PROCESS CHART
Referral Through 504 Plan Implementation



Crenshaw County Schools Summary of Section 504 Process

When a parent/guardian, school employee or other responsible person makes a referral for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the following steps should take place. These steps are also shown on the attached flowchart.

1. Step one is the referral step. This step does NOT require a formal meeting and a referral can be submitted by a parent/guardian or school staff. When an inquiry is received, the referral form **(Form A)** should be completed. This initiates the 504 process.
2. Step two is provision of notice of a meeting to consider the referral. In this step, the parent should be provided a Notice of Proposed Meeting **(Form B)** with a proposed date and purpose for the meeting. This form should be used EVERY time that a meeting is called and the purpose should be marked each time. In addition, the parent should be provided a copy of the Parent's Rights document **(Form C)** at least annually.
3. Step three requires the initial meeting of the 504 team. **This meeting is to consider if the child should be evaluated for Section 504 services or not.** Initial consideration of the need should include basic information from the parent/guardian in order to ascertain if a full evaluation is appropriate. If not, provide the parent a copy of **Form D**, Notice of Intent Regarding Evaluation. Completion of the evaluation should occur within 60 days of this date. **Reminder:** All meetings should be "team" meetings. At no point should the Coordinator or any other administrator make a unilateral decision related to disability determination or the 504 plan. As with IEPs for students under IDEA, it must always be a "team decision."
4. Step four consists of the actual evaluation. In completing this process, the Building 504 Coordinator should have each teacher of the child (and other staff as appropriate) complete **Form E**, Teacher Observation Form. In addition to this form, the Coordinator should complete **Form F**, Disability Determination. Again, this process should be completed within 60 days of the initial meeting where parental consent was received. A meeting will be held to review the results of the evaluation and make a disability determination.
5. Step five is where the 504 plan is developed, if appropriate. The meeting to complete the 504 plan **(Form G)** should take place within 30 days of the Disability Determination. **Note:** The eligibility and 504 plan meeting may take place at the same time if the Coordinator is prepared to do so. **Reminder:** When you schedule any meeting, you must send a Notice of Proposed Meeting **(Form B)** with the purpose(s) of the meeting marked. If the determination is that no 504 plan is needed, the parent should be given a copy of **Form D**, Notice of Intent, **Form E**, Disability Determination, and the Parent's Rights document **(Form C)**.

Crenshaw County Schools
183 Votec Drive
Luverne, AL 36049
(334)335-6519

CONFERENCE RECORD

This document shall serve as a record of the conference held between the parties listed below on _____ regarding _____.

Date of Meeting _____ Student's Name _____

- I. **Participants at the meeting were** (please print each name and have each participant initial beside his/her name at the end of the meeting).

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Were the parent rights provided at this meeting? Yes No

- II. **Purpose(s) of the meeting.**

- III. **Items on the agenda for discussion:**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. _____
IV. **Notes from the meeting:** List key discussion points.

V. **Summary:** List decisions made, proposals accepted or actions to be taken as a result of the conference.

Signature of Person Completing Conference Record

Date

Signature of Section 504 Coordinator/LEA Representative

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

**Section 504 Compliance Checklist
Crenshaw County Schools**

Steps when a Student is Referred and Found to Need a Section 504 Plan:

- Received/Documented Initial Inquiry (RtI/DSI Documents, Parent Communication)
- Referral Form Completed (Form A, Referral Form)
- Meeting to Consider Referral (Form B, Notice of Proposed Meeting)
- Provide Parent Rights (Form C, Parent/Guardian Procedural Safeguards and Rights)
- Provide Notice, Decision to Evaluate (Form D, Notice of Intent Regarding Eval.)
- Obtain Teacher Input (Form E, Teacher Observation and Input Form)
- Complete Evaluation (Form F, Evaluation/Disability/504 Plan Determination)
- Complete Section 504 Plan (Form G, Plan Form)
- Obtain Staff Signatures Regarding Plan (Form J, Acknowledgement of Receipt)

Other Forms and Circumstances that Necessitate Use of the Form:

- If team decides not to accept referral for evaluation (Form D)
- If team decides student needs a Behavior Intervention Plan (Form I)
- If team needs to consider manifestation of behavior (Form K)
- If a parent expresses desire to file grievance/complaint (Forms C, L and M)

Please check all forms that were provided to parents during the process of consideration of the 504 referral. Include this document as a cover to the 504 plan documents that are submitted to the District 504 Coordinator annually.

School Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Person Completing this Form: _____

Frequently Asked Questions About Section 504
(adapted from OCR's FAQ Document – March 2009)

INTRODUCTION

An important responsibility of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability against students with disabilities. OCR receives numerous complaints and inquiries in the area of elementary and secondary education involving Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504). Most of these concern identification of students who are protected by Section 504 and the means to obtain an appropriate education for such students.

Section 504 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Section 504 provides: "No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. . . ."

OCR enforces Section 504 in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from ED. Recipients of this Federal financial assistance include public school districts, institutions of higher education, and other state and local education agencies. The regulations implementing Section 504 in the context of educational institutions appear at 34 C.F.R. Part 104.

The Section 504 regulations require a school district to provide a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the school district's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. Under Section 504, FAPE consists of the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services designed to meet the student's individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met.

This resource document clarifies pertinent requirements of Section 504.

For additional information, please contact the Office for Civil Rights.

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF IDEA AND SECTION 504

1. **What is the jurisdiction of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and state departments of education/instruction regarding educational services to students with disabilities?**

OCR, a component of the U.S. Department of Education, enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (Section 504) a civil rights statute which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. OCR also enforces Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II), which extends this prohibition against discrimination to the full range of state and local government services, programs, and activities (including public schools) regardless of whether they receive any Federal financial assistance. The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (Amendments Act), effective January 1, 2009, amended the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and included a conforming amendment to the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act) that affects the meaning of disability in Section 504. The standards adopted by the ADA were designed not to restrict the rights or remedies available under Section 504. The Title II regulations applicable to free appropriate public education issues do not provide greater protection than applicable Section 504 regulations. This guidance focuses primarily on Section 504. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Title II prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by state and local governments. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), also a component of the U.S. Department of Education, administers the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a statute which funds special education programs. Each state educational agency is responsible for administering IDEA within the state and distributing the funds for special education programs. IDEA is a grant statute and attaches many specific conditions to the receipt of Federal IDEA funds. Section 504 and the ADA are antidiscrimination laws and do not provide any type of funding.

2. How does OCR get involved in disability issues within a school district?

OCR receives complaints from parents, students or advocates, conducts agency initiated compliance reviews, and provides technical assistance to school districts, parents or advocates.

3. Where can a school district, parent, or student get information on Section 504 or find out information about OCR's interpretation of Section 504 and Title II?

OCR provides technical assistance to school districts, parents, and students upon request. Additionally, regulations and publicly issued policy guidance is available on OCR's website, at <http://www.ed.gov>.

4. What services are available for students with disabilities under Section 504?

Section 504 requires recipients to provide to students with disabilities appropriate educational services designed to meet the individual needs of such students to the same extent as the needs of students without disabilities are met. An appropriate education for a student with a disability under the Section 504 regulations could consist of education in regular classrooms, education in regular classes with supplementary services, and/or special education and related services.

5. Does OCR examine individual placement or other educational decisions for students with disabilities?

Except in extraordinary circumstances, OCR does not review the result of individual placement or other educational decisions so long as the school district complies with the procedural requirements of Section 504 relating to identification and location of students with disabilities, evaluation of such students, and due process. Accordingly, OCR generally will not evaluate the content of a Section 504 plan or of an individualized education program (IEP); rather, any disagreement can be resolved through a due process hearing. The hearing would be conducted under Section 504 or the IDEA, whichever is applicable.

OCR will examine procedures by which school districts identify and evaluate students with disabilities and the procedural safeguards which those school districts provide students. OCR will also examine incidents in which students with disabilities are allegedly subjected to treatment

which is different from the treatment to which similarly situated students without disabilities are subjected. Such incidents may involve the unwarranted exclusion of disabled students from educational programs and services.

6. What protections does OCR provide against retaliation?

Retaliatory acts are prohibited. A recipient is prohibited from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or discriminating against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Section 504.

7. Does OCR mediate complaints?

OCR does not engage in formal mediation. However, OCR may offer to facilitate mediation, referred to as “Early Complaint Resolution,” to resolve a complaint filed under Section 504. This approach brings the parties together so that they may discuss possible resolution of the complaint immediately. If both parties are willing to utilize this approach, OCR will work with the parties to facilitate resolution by providing each an understanding of pertinent legal standards and possible remedies. An agreement reached between the parties is not monitored by OCR.

8. What are the appeal rights with OCR?

OCR is committed to a high quality resolution of every case. If a complainant has questions or concerns about an OCR determination, he or she may contact the OCR staff person whose name appears in the complaint resolution letter. The complainant should address his or her concerns with as much specificity as possible, focusing on factual or legal questions that would change the resolution of the case. Should a complainant continue to have questions or concerns, he or she is advised to send a request for reconsideration to the Director of the responsible OCR field office. The Director will review the appropriateness of the complaint resolution. If the complainant remains dissatisfied, he or she may submit an appeal in writing to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement. The decision of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement constitutes OCR’s final decision.

9. What does noncompliance with Section 504 mean?

A school district is out of compliance when it is violating any provision of the Section 504 statute or regulations.

10. What sanctions can OCR impose on a school district that is out of compliance?

OCR initially attempts to bring the school district into voluntary compliance through negotiation of a corrective action agreement. If OCR is unable to achieve voluntary compliance, OCR will initiate enforcement action. OCR may: (1) initiate administrative proceedings to terminate Department of Education financial assistance to the recipient; or (2) refer the case to the Department of Justice for judicial proceedings.

11. Who has ultimate authority to enforce Section 504?

In the educational context, OCR has been given administrative authority to enforce Section 504. Section 504 is a Federal statute that may be enforced through the Departments administrative

process or through the Federal court system. In addition, a person may at any time file a private lawsuit against a school district. The Section 504 regulations do not contain a requirement that a person file a complaint with OCR and exhaust his or her administrative remedies before filing a private lawsuit.

STUDENTS PROTECTED UNDER SECTION 504

Section 504 covers qualified students with disabilities who attend schools receiving Federal financial assistance. To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to: (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or (2) have a record of such an impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such an impairment. Section 504 requires that school districts provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to qualified students in their jurisdictions who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

12. What is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity? The determination of whether a student has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity must be made on the basis of an individual inquiry. The Section 504 regulatory provision at 34 C.F.R. 104.3(j)(2)(i) defines a physical or mental impairment 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; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genito-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The regulatory provision does not set forth an exhaustive list of specific diseases and conditions that may constitute physical or mental impairments because of the difficulty of ensuring the comprehensiveness of such a list.

Major life activities, as defined in the Section 504 regulations at 34 C.F.R. 104.3(j)(2)(ii), include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. This list is not exhaustive. Other functions can be major life activities for purposes of Section 504. In the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), Congress provided additional examples of general activities that are major life activities, including eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, reading, concentrating, thinking, and communicating. Congress also provided a non-exhaustive list of examples of "major bodily functions" that are major life activities, such as the functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions. The Section 504 regulatory provision, though not as comprehensive as the Amendments Act, is still valid — the Section 504 regulatory provision's list of examples of major life activities is not exclusive, and an activity or function not specifically listed in the Section 504 regulatory provision can nonetheless be a major life activity.

13. **Does the meaning of the phrase "qualified student with a disability" differ on the basis of a student's educational level, i.e., elementary and secondary versus postsecondary?**

Yes. At the elementary and secondary educational level, a "qualified student with a disability" is a student with a disability who is: of an age at which students without disabilities are provided elementary and secondary educational services; of an age at which it is mandatory under state law to provide elementary and secondary educational services to students with disabilities; or a

student to whom a state is required to provide a free appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

At the postsecondary educational level, a qualified student with a disability is a student with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards requisite for admission or participation in the institution's educational program or activity.

14. Does the nature of services to which a student is entitled under Section 504 differ by educational level?

Yes. Public elementary and secondary recipients are required to provide a free appropriate public education to qualified students with disabilities. Such an education consists of regular or special education and related aids and services designed to meet the individual educational needs of students with disabilities as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met.

At the postsecondary level, the recipient is required to provide students with appropriate academic adjustments and auxiliary aids and services that are necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in a school's program. Recipients are not required to make adjustments or provide aids or services that would result in a fundamental alteration of a recipient's program or impose an undue burden.

15. Once a student is identified as eligible for services under Section 504, is that student always entitled to such services?

Yes, as long as the student remains eligible. The protections of Section 504 extend only to individuals who meet the regulatory definition of a person with a disability. If a recipient school district re-evaluates a student in accordance with the Section 504 regulatory provision at 34 C.F.R. 104.35 and determines that the student's mental or physical impairment no longer substantially limits his/her ability to learn or any other major life activity, the student is no longer eligible for services under Section 504.

16. Are current illegal users of drugs excluded from protection under Section 504?

Generally, yes. Section 504 excludes from the definition of a student with a disability, and from Section 504 protection, any student who is currently engaging in the illegal use of drugs when a covered entity acts on the basis of such use. (There are exceptions for persons in rehabilitation programs who are no longer engaging in the illegal use of drugs).

17. Are current users of alcohol excluded from protection under Section 504?

No. Section 504's definition of a student with a disability does not exclude users of alcohol. However, Section 504 allows schools to take disciplinary action against students with disabilities using drugs or alcohol to the same extent as students without disabilities.

EVALUATION

At the elementary and secondary school level, determining whether a child is a qualified disabled student under Section 504 begins with the evaluation process. Section 504 requires the use of evaluation procedures that ensure that children are not misclassified, unnecessarily labeled as

having a disability, or incorrectly placed, based on inappropriate selection, administration, or interpretation of evaluation materials.

18. What is an appropriate evaluation under Section 504?

Recipient school districts must establish standards and procedures for initial evaluations and periodic re-evaluations of students who need or are believed to need special education and/or related services because of disability. The Section 504 regulatory provision at 34 C.F.R. 104.35 (b) requires school districts to individually evaluate a student before classifying the student as having a disability or providing the student with special education. Tests used for this purpose must be selected and administered so as best to ensure that the test results accurately reflect the student's aptitude or achievement or other factor being measured rather than reflect the student's disability, except where those are the factors being measured. Section 504 also requires that tests and other evaluation materials include those tailored to evaluate the specific areas of educational need and not merely those designed to provide a single intelligence quotient. The tests and other evaluation materials must be validated for the specific purpose for which they are used and appropriately administered by trained personnel.

19. How much is enough information to document that a student has a disability?

At the elementary and secondary education level, the amount of information required is determined by the Multidisciplinary Team gathered to evaluate the student. The Team should include persons knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options. The Team members must determine if they have enough information to make a knowledgeable decision as to whether or not the student has a disability. The Section 504 regulatory provision at 34 C.F.R. 104.35(c) requires that school districts draw from a variety of sources in the evaluation process so that the possibility of error is minimized. The information obtained from all such sources must be documented and all significant factors related to the student's learning process must be considered. These sources and factors may include aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social and cultural background, and adaptive behavior. In evaluating a student suspected of having a disability, it is unacceptable to rely on presumptions and stereotypes regarding persons with disabilities or classes of such persons. Compliance with the IDEA regarding the group of persons present when an evaluation or placement decision is made is satisfactory under Section 504.

20. What process should a school district use to identify students eligible for services under Section 504? Is it the same process as that employed in identifying students eligible for services under the IDEA?

School districts may use the same process to evaluate the needs of students under Section 504 as they use to evaluate the needs of students under the IDEA. If school districts choose to adopt a separate process for evaluating the needs of students under Section 504, they must follow the requirements for evaluation specified in the Section 504 regulatory provision at 34 C.F.R. 104.35.

21. May school districts consider "mitigating measures" used by a student in determining whether the student has a disability under Section 504?

No. As of January 1, 2009, school districts, in determining whether a student has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits that student in a major life activity, must not consider

the ameliorating effects of any mitigating measures that student is using. This is a change from prior law. Before January 1, 2009, school districts had to consider a student's use of mitigating measures in determining whether that student had a physical or mental impairment that substantially limited that student in a major life activity. In the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), however, Congress specified that the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures must not be considered in determining if a person is an individual with a disability.

Congress did not define the term "mitigating measures" but rather provided a nonexhaustive list of "mitigating measures." The mitigating measures are as follows: medication; medical supplies, equipment or appliances; low-vision devices (which do not include ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses); prosthetics (including limbs and devices); hearing aids and cochlear implants or other implantable hearing devices; mobility devices; oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; use of assistive technology; reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services; and learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications.

Congress created one exception to the mitigating measures analysis. The ameliorative effects of the mitigating measures of ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses shall be considered in determining if an impairment substantially limits a major life activity. "Ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses" are lenses that are intended to fully correct visual acuity or eliminate refractive error, whereas "low-vision devices" (listed above) are devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image.

22. Does OCR endorse a single formula or scale that measures substantial limitations?

No. The determination of substantial limitation must be made on a case-by-case basis with respect to each individual student. The Section 504 regulatory provision at 34 C.F.R. 104.35 (c) requires that a group of knowledgeable persons draw upon information from a variety of sources in making this determination.

23. Are there any impairments which automatically mean that a student has a disability under Section 504?

No. An impairment in and of itself is not a disability. The impairment must substantially limit one or more major life activities in order to be considered a disability under Section 504.

24. Can a medical diagnosis suffice as an evaluation for the purpose of providing FAPE?

No. A physician's medical diagnosis may be considered among other sources in evaluating a student with an impairment or believed to have an impairment which substantially limits a major life activity. Other sources to be considered, along with the medical diagnosis, include aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social and cultural background, and adaptive behavior. As noted in FAQ 22, the Section 504 regulations require school districts to draw upon a variety of sources in interpreting evaluation data and making placement decisions.

25. Does a medical diagnosis of an illness automatically mean a student can receive services under Section 504?

No. A medical diagnosis of an illness does not automatically mean a student can receive services under Section 504. The illness must cause a substantial limitation on the student's ability to learn or another major life activity. For example, a student who has a physical or mental impairment would not be considered a student in need of services under Section 504 if the impairment does not in any way limit the student's ability to learn or other major life activity, or only results in some minor limitation in that regard.

26. How should a recipient school district handle an outside independent evaluation? Do all data brought to a multi-disciplinary Team need to be considered and given equal weight?

The results of an outside independent evaluation may be one of many sources to consider. Multi-disciplinary Teams must draw from a variety of sources in the evaluation process so that the possibility of error is minimized. All significant factors related to the subject student's learning process must be considered. These sources and factors include aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social and cultural background, and adaptive behavior, among others. Information from all sources must be documented and considered by knowledgeable Team members. The weight of the information is determined by the Team given the student's individual circumstances.

27. What should a recipient school district do if a parent refuses to consent to an initial evaluation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), but demands a Section 504 plan for a student without further evaluation?

A school district must evaluate a student prior to providing services under Section 504. Section 504 requires informed parental permission for initial evaluations. If a parent refuses consent for an initial evaluation and a recipient school district suspects a student has a disability, the IDEA and Section 504 provide that school districts may use due process hearing procedures to seek to override the parents' denial of consent.

28. Who in the evaluation process makes the ultimate decision regarding a student's eligibility for services under Section 504?

The Section 504 regulatory provision at 34 C.F.R.104.35 (c) (3) requires that school districts ensure that the determination that a student is eligible for special education and/or related aids and services be made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about the meaning of the evaluation data and knowledgeable about the placement options. If a parent disagrees with the determination, he or she may request a due process hearing.

29. Once a student is identified as eligible for services under Section 504, is there an annual or triennial review requirement? If so, what is the appropriate process to be used? Or is it appropriate to keep the same Section 504 plan in place indefinitely after a student has been identified?

Periodic re-evaluation is required. This may be conducted in accordance with the IDEA regulations, which require re-evaluation at three-year intervals (unless the parent and public agency agree that re-evaluation is unnecessary) or more frequently if conditions warrant, or if the child's parent or teacher requests a re-evaluation, but not more than once a year (unless the parent and public agency agree otherwise).

30. Is a Section 504 reevaluation similar to an IDEA re-evaluation? How often should it be done?

Yes. Section 504 specifies that re-evaluations in accordance with the IDEA is one means of compliance with Section 504. The Section 504 regulations require that reevaluations be conducted periodically. Section 504 also requires a school district to conduct a re-evaluation prior to a significant change of placement. OCR considers an exclusion from the educational program of more than 10 school days a significant change of placement. OCR would also consider transferring a student from one type of program to another or terminating or significantly reducing a related service, a significant change in placement.

31. What is reasonable justification for referring a student for evaluation for services under Section 504?

School districts may always use regular education intervention strategies to assist students with difficulties in school. Section 504 requires recipient school districts to refer a student for an evaluation for possible special education or related aids and services or modification to regular education if the student, because of disability, needs or is believed to need such services.

32. A student is receiving services that the school district maintains are necessary under Section 504 in order to provide the student with an appropriate education. The student's parent no longer wants the student to receive those services. If the parent wishes to withdraw the student from a Section 504 plan, what can the school district do to ensure continuation of services?

The school district may initiate a Section 504 due process hearing to resolve the dispute if the district believes the student needs the services in order to receive an appropriate education.

33. A student has a disability referenced in the IDEA, but does not require special education services. Is such a student eligible for services under Section 504?

The student may be eligible for services under Section 504. The school district must determine whether the student has an impairment which substantially limits his or her ability to learn or another major life activity and, if so, make an individualized determination of the child's educational needs for regular or special education or related aids or services. For example, such a student may receive adjustments in the regular classroom.

34. How should a recipient school district view a temporary impairment?

A temporary impairment does not constitute a disability for purposes of Section 504 unless its severity is such that it results in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities for an extended period of time. The issue of whether a temporary impairment is substantial enough to be a disability must be resolved on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration either the duration (or expected duration) of the impairment and the extent to which it actually limits a major life activity of the affected individual.

In the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), Congress clarified that an individual is not "regarded as" an individual with a disability if the impairment is transitory and minor. A transitory impairment is an impairment with an actual or expected duration of 6 months or less.

35. Is an impairment that is episodic or in remission a disability under Section 504?

Yes, under certain circumstances. In the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), Congress clarified that an impairment that is episodic or in remission is a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active. A student with such an impairment is entitled to a free appropriate public education under Section 504.

PLACEMENT

Once a student is identified as being eligible for regular or special education and related aids or services, a decision must be made regarding the type of services the student needs.

36. If a student is eligible for services under both the IDEA and Section 504, must a school district develop both an individualized education program (IEP) under the IDEA and a Section 504 plan under Section 504?

No. If a student is eligible under IDEA, he or she must have an IEP. Under the Section 504 regulations, one way to meet Section 504 requirements for a free appropriate public education is to implement an IEP.

37. Must a school district develop a Section 504 plan for a student who either “has a record of disability” or is “regarded as disabled”?

No. In public elementary and secondary schools, unless a student actually has an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, the mere fact that a student has a “record of” or is “regarded as” disabled is insufficient, in itself, to trigger those Section 504 protections that require the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This is consistent with the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), in which Congress clarified that an individual who meets the definition of disability solely by virtue of being “regarded as” disabled is not entitled to reasonable accommodations or the reasonable modification of policies, practices or procedures. The phrases “has a record of disability” and “is regarded as disabled” are meant to reach the situation in which a student either does not currently have or never had a disability, but is treated by others as such.

As noted in FAQ 34, in the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), Congress clarified that an individual is not “regarded as” an individual with a disability if the impairment is transitory and minor. A transitory impairment is an impairment with an actual or expected duration of 6 months or less.

38. What is the receiving school district’s responsibility under Section 504 toward a student with a Section 504 plan who transfers from another district? If a student with a disability transfers to a district from another school district with a Section 504 plan, the receiving district should review the plan and supporting documentation. If a group of persons at the receiving school district, including persons knowledgeable about the meaning of the evaluation data and knowledgeable about the placement options determines that the plan is appropriate, the district is required to implement the plan. If the district determines that the plan is inappropriate, the district is to evaluate the student consistent with the Section 504 procedures at 34 C.F.R. 104.35 and determine which educational program is appropriate for the student. There is no Section 504 bar to the receiving school district honoring the previous IEP during the interim period. Information about IDEA requirements when a student transfers is available from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at <http://idea.ed.gov> .

39. What are the responsibilities of regular education teachers with respect to implementation of Section 504 plans? What are the consequences if the district fails to implement the plans?

Regular education teachers must implement the provisions of Section 504 plans when those plans govern the teachers' treatment of students for whom they are responsible. If the teachers fail to implement the plans, such failure can cause the school district to be in noncompliance with Section 504.

40. What is the difference between a regular education intervention plan and a Section 504 plan?

A regular education intervention plan is appropriate for a student who does not have a disability or is not suspected of having a disability but may be facing challenges in school. School districts vary in how they address performance problems of regular education students. Some districts employ teams at individual schools, commonly referred to as "building teams." These teams are designed to provide regular education classroom teachers with instructional support and strategies for helping students in need of assistance. These teams are typically composed of regular and special education teachers who provide ideas to classroom teachers on methods for helping students experiencing academic or behavioral problems. The team usually records its ideas in a written regular education intervention plan. The team meets with an affected student's classroom teacher(s) and recommends strategies to address the student's problems within the regular education environment. The team then follows the responsible teacher(s) to determine whether the student's performance or behavior has improved. In addition to building teams, districts may utilize other regular education intervention methods, including before- school and after-school programs, tutoring programs, and mentoring programs.

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

Public elementary and secondary schools must employ procedural safeguards regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of persons who, because of disability, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services.

41. Must a recipient school district obtain parental consent prior to conducting an initial evaluation?

Yes. OCR has interpreted Section 504 to require districts to obtain parental permission for initial evaluations. If a district suspects a student needs or is believed to need special instruction or related services and parental consent is withheld, the IDEA and Section 504 provide that districts may use due process hearing procedures to seek to override the parents' denial of consent for an initial evaluation.

42. If so, in what form is consent required?

Section 504 is silent on the form of parental consent required. OCR has accepted written consent as compliance. IDEA, as well as many state laws, also requires written consent prior to initiating an evaluation.

43. **What can a recipient school district do if a parent withholds consent for a student to secure services under Section 504 after a student is determined eligible for services?**

Section 504 neither prohibits nor requires a school district to initiate a due process hearing to override a parental refusal to consent with respect to the initial provision of special education and related services. Nonetheless, school districts should consider that IDEA no longer permits school districts to initiate a due process hearing to override a parental refusal to consent to the initial provision of services.

44. **What procedural safeguards are required under Section 504?**

Recipient school districts are required to establish and implement procedural safeguards that include notice, an opportunity for parents to review relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the student's parents or guardian, representation by counsel and a review procedure.

45. **What is a recipient school district's responsibility under Section 504 to provide information to parents and students about its evaluation and placement process?**

Section 504 requires districts to provide notice to parents explaining any evaluation and placement decisions affecting their children and explaining the parents' right to review educational records and appeal any decision regarding evaluation and placement through an impartial hearing.

46. **Is there a mediation requirement under Section 504?**

No. However, the District provides and encourages mediation in order to resolve Section 504 disputes.

TERMINOLOGY

The following terms may be confusing and/or are frequently used incorrectly in the elementary and secondary school context.

Equal access: equal opportunity of a qualified person with a disability to participate in or benefit from educational aid, benefits, or services

Free appropriate public education (FAPE): a term used in the elementary and secondary school context; for purposes of Section 504, refers to the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet individual educational needs of students with disabilities as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met and is based upon adherence to procedures that satisfy the Section 504 requirements pertaining to educational setting, evaluation and placement, and procedural safeguards

Placement: a term used in the elementary and secondary school context; refers to regular and/or special educational program in which a student receives educational and/or related services

Reasonable accommodation: a term used in the employment context to refer to modifications or adjustments employers make to a job application process, the work environment, the manner

or circumstances under which the position held or desired is customarily performed, or that enable a covered entity's employee with a disability to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment; this term is sometimes used incorrectly to refer to related aids and services in the elementary and secondary school context or to refer to academic adjustments, reasonable modifications, and auxiliary aids and services in the postsecondary school context

Reasonable modifications: under a regulatory provision implementing Title II of the ADA, public entities are required to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the public entity can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity

Related services: a term used in the elementary and secondary school context to refer to developmental, corrective, and other supportive services, including psychological, counseling and medical diagnostic services and transportation.