

Nova Classical Academy

Section 504 Information

What is Section 504?

Section 504 is a part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The law is intended to ensure that students with disabilities are not prevented from accessing the educational program as adequately as their peers.

Under Section 504, a person is considered to have a disability if they:

- Have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more activities of daily living (ADLs)
- Have a record of such an impairment
- Are regarded as having such an impairment

Section 504 Eligibility

Evaluations under Section 504 involve gathering information from current school and medical records in order to determine if a student's disability prevents them from having the same access to the education program as their non-disabled peers. A team of staff will determine eligibility for protection and/or accommodations under Section 504 by considering the impact of the disability on the student's access to learning.

Section 504 Plans

If a student is found to be eligible for a Section 504 plan, the team will create a list of accommodations that ensure equal access to learning. Teachers are required to implement the accommodations in a 504 plan.

Section 504 is not intended to maximize individual potential. It is intended to ensure that a disabled student is able to access education programs as adequately as nondisabled peers.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a Section 504 Plan and an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

504 plans describe accommodations and modifications made to academic work, the classroom environment, and other parts of educational programming to ensure students with disabilities have equal access to learning. Along with appropriate accommodations and modifications, IEPs also describe the explicit instruction and other services a student will receive.

Are there any diagnosed impairments which automatically qualify a student for protection under Section 504?

No. The impairment must substantially limit one or more major life activities.

Is a formal diagnosis sufficient for a student to qualify for a Section 504 plan?

No. A team of staff must conduct a 504 evaluation to determine if the diagnosed impairment limits a major life activity and if accommodations are required to ensure equal access to learning.

If my child's physician writes recommended accommodations in their report, is the school required to implement them?

No. Schools are required to conduct their own evaluation of a student given their disability to determine if they are eligible for a 504 plan. The school will also determine appropriate accommodations and modifications given the disability's impact on the student's learning.

Can I request a new evaluation?

Yes. Section 504 recommends that students are reevaluated after a significant change in placement. We also recommend that you request a reevaluation if you see a significant change in your student's academic performance and/or behavior.

How long will my child be eligible under Section 504?

A student's eligibility under Section 504 and need for a 504 plan must be re-evaluated periodically. If a student no longer meets the eligibility criteria, their family will be notified.

Please contact Nova Classical Academy's Section 504 Coordinator with any questions.