



Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-112) was the first federal civil rights legislation that was designed to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. It was originally proposed as an amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, but instead was included as an amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

According to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

“Otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities in the United States...shall not solely by reason of his disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

The basic purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in programs that receive federal financial assistance. It mandates services be provided for eligible persons from preschool through adult education.

Protection under Section 504 is extended to:

- Persons who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as compared to the average person in the population
- Persons who have a record of such a physical or mental impairment
- Persons who are regarded as having such an impairment

If an accommodation plan is required following an evaluation and determination of eligibility by the school's 504 committee, reasonable accommodations can include:

- Preferential seating
- Adjusting the length of time allowed to complete an assignment
- Allowing students to dictate answers
- Allowing more time to take tests

For more information on Section 504, please contact Mrs. Bette Da Giau at 201-833-5437.