
AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Adopted June 2015
Reviewed July 2017

APS Code: IHBC

IMPLEMENTING SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
(“SECTION 504”)

Page 1 of 1

The Superintendent or designee shall develop regulations and/or procedures regarding the provision of a free appropriate education (“FAPE”) to APS students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

LEGAL REFS.: 29 U.S.C. § 794, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*, Americans with Disabilities Act
28 C.F.R. § 35.101 *et seq.*

CROSS REF.: AC, Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

IMPLEMENTING SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
(“SECTION 504”)

Page 1 of 5

This regulation is designed to be consistent with the general purpose and principals outlined in policy AC, as well as consistent with federal and state statutes, and local ordinances.

Aurora Public Schools shall provide a free appropriate public education (“FAPE”) as defined by Section 504 to all children with disabilities within the District as required under Section 504 and all relevant implementing regulations. For any student who needs or is believed to need a FAPE as defined in Section 504, the District shall follow the procedures outlined in this regulation and adopt plans pursuant to Section 504 (“504 Plans”).

Definitions

1. “Student Compliance Officer” means the Director of Health Services or his or her designee who oversees compliance with Section 504. The District shall strive to have a building designee in each of its school facilities.
2. “Aggrieved Individual” shall mean a student of the District or his or her parent or guardian who is directly affected by and/or is witness to an alleged violation of Board policies regarding the identification and provision of a FAPE to students identified with disabilities pursuant to Section 504.

Student Compliance Officer’s Duties

The Student Compliance Officer or his/her school-based designee shall be responsible for receiving requests for eligibility determinations pursuant to Section 504 and for conducting an investigation and coordinating all grievance procedures and processes for any alleged violation of federal or state statute or Board policy requiring the provision of a FAPE to qualifying students with disabilities pursuant to Section 504.

The District’s Student Compliance Officer is:

Director
Health Services
Aurora Public Schools
15700 East 1st Avenue
Aurora, CO 80011

IMPLEMENTING SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
(“SECTION 504”)
Page 2 of 5

Telephone: (303) 365-7813

Student 504 Plans

The ADA and Section 504 define a disability as a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.

In accordance with applicable law, Aurora Public Schools shall provide a FAPE to students with qualifying disabilities pursuant to Section 504. Students and/or parents who believe that a student may require services pursuant to a 504 Plan are encouraged to contact the Student Compliance Officer and/or his or her school-based designee to request a meeting to discuss the student’s potential eligibility for a 504 Plan. Likewise, all District personnel who believe that a student may require services pursuant to a 504 Plan may contact the Student Compliance Officer and/or his or her designee to request a meeting to discuss the student’s potential eligibility for a 504 Plan.

The Student Compliance Officer shall convene a team (“The 504 Team”) of persons knowledgeable about the student, the student’s school history, the student’s individual needs, the meaning of any evaluation data, and the options for services. The Student Compliance Officer shall also make reasonable efforts to secure the participation of the student’s parent or guardian on the student’s 504 Team.

The student’s 504 Team will consider the referral for eligibility of a 504 Plan and conclude whether any evaluations are necessary to determine the student’s eligibility for a 504 Plan. The District may request an evaluation in order to determine eligibility for a 504 Plan. However, if the District requires an evaluation in order to determine eligibility for a 504 Plan, the District will provide the evaluation its own expense.

For a student who has been identified with a disability pursuant to Section 504, the student’s 504 Team shall be responsible for determining what services are needed. In making such determinations, the student’s 504 Team shall consider all available relevant information, and the student’s parent or guardian shall be invited to participate in 504 Team meetings where services for the student will be determined.

IMPLEMENTING SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
(“SECTION 504”)
Page 3 of 5

The 504 Team may also determine that, although the student is a student with a disability pursuant to Section 504, no services are appropriate. In that event, the 504 Team shall document that the student is a student with a disability pursuant to Section 504, but that the student does not require services in order to access the educational environment.

Review of Student Progress

A student’s 504 Team shall monitor the student’s progress and the effectiveness of the student’s 504 Plan annually where practicable but in no case longer than once every three years to determine whether the prescribed services are appropriate and necessary, and to ensure that the student’s needs are being met as adequately as the needs of his or her nondisabled peers. The student’s parent or guardian shall be notified in writing of any District decision concerning the identification, evaluation, or placement of a student with a disability pursuant to Section 504.

Grievance Procedure

For allegations under Section 504 and as otherwise required by law, Aggrieved Individuals who are challenging the identification, evaluation, educational placement or provisions of services to students who need or are believed to need appropriate educational services under Section 504 may submit a complaint to the District’s Student Compliance Officer or to the District Discrimination Compliance Officer as set forth in policy AC and its accompanying regulations. Grievance procedures shall be governed by policy AC and its accompanying regulations. Complaints may be made orally or in writing. All reports received by teachers, counselors, principals, or other District employees shall be promptly forwarded to the Student Compliance Officer.

Formal Hearing Procedures

An impartial hearing process will be available to resolve disputes related to the identification, evaluation, placement, and/or provision of services for a student entitled to protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Either the District or an Aggrieved Individual may initiate a hearing. The Aggrieved Individual shall request a hearing using the complaint procedure identified above.

IMPLEMENTING SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
(“SECTION 504”)
Page 4 of 5

The Superintendent or designee shall appoint an impartial hearing officer. The student’s parent or guardian shall be notified in writing of the hearing at least five (5) school days prior to the date set for the hearing. The notice shall be in the parent or guardian’s native language and shall contain:

1. A statement of the time and place of the hearing;
2. A statement of the parent or guardian’s right to be represented by counsel; and
3. A statement of the parent or guardian’s right to examine relevant records.

The hearing shall be informal and the student and his or her parent or guardian may appear at the hearing and shall be entitled to present testimony and other evidence. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply. The Student Compliance Officer or designee may represent the District at the hearing and shall likewise be entitled to present testimony and other evidence. The hearing shall be closed to the public.

The hearing shall deliver a written decision based upon evidence presented at the hearing to the Aggrieved Individual and the Student Compliance Officer within ten (10) school days of completion of the hearing. The hearing officer’s decision shall include a summary of the evidence and the reasons for the decisions.

Either the Aggrieved Individual or the District may appeal the hearing officer’s decision by submitting a request for review to the Superintendent or designee within ten (10) calendar days following receipt of the hearing officer’s decision. The request must be in writing and state with specificity the appellant’s disagreements with the hearing officer’s decision. The Superintendent or designee will review the record of the hearing and may request additional written information or oral testimony. The Superintendent or designee shall issue a written decision within fifteen (15) school days of receipt of the appeal. The Superintendent or designee’s decision shall be final.

Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted to confer upon any person the right to a hearing independent of a Board policy, administrative procedure, statute, rule, regulation, or agreement expressly conferring such right.

Outside Agencies

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APS Code: IHBC-R

IMPLEMENTING SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
(“SECTION 504”)

Page 5 of 5

Complaints regarding violations of Section 504/ADA and requests for an impartial due process hearing may be filed directly with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 1244 North Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204.