Section 504 Plans at a Glance

A practical introduction to Section 504 Plans for families.

A Note for Families

Your child may already have a Section 504 Plan, or someone may have suggested one. A 504 Plan can be a valuable support, but it often raises questions about what it does and doesn't do. This guide explains its purpose and how it supports students. It is a starting point, not a substitute for individualized guidance.

What Is a Section 504 Plan?

A Section 504 Plan provides accommodations and, when appropriate, related services for students with disabilities. Its purpose is to remove barriers so students can access the same learning opportunities as their peers. Unlike an IEP, a 504 Plan does not provide specially designed instruction.

> DEA PERSPECTIVE
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> **Remove barriers, not expectations.**
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> Accommodations are not meant to lower academic standards. They give students equal access so they can show what they know and can do.

Why It Matters

The right accommodations can make school more accessible and help students participate more fully. Accommodations support learning, but they are not a magic solution. Consistent effort and communication between home and school still matter.

Parts of a 504 Plan

Accommodations	Supports such as preferential seating, extended time, visual schedules, break cards, or alternative seating.
Related Services	Some students receive related services when appropriate to support access to their education.
Implementation	Every staff member who works with the student should understand and follow the plan.
Review	The plan can be reviewed and updated whenever your child's needs change.

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Common Misconceptions

MYTH	WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW
A 504 Plan provides specialized instruction like an IEP.	A 504 Plan provides accommodations and, when appropriate, related services. It does not provide specially designed instruction.
A 504 Plan isn't as important as an IEP.	A 504 Plan is a formal plan the school is required to follow.
Accommodations give students an unfair advantage.	Accommodations remove barriers so students have equal access to learning.

DEA PERSPECTIVE

A plan is only as good as its implementation.

Ask how each accommodation is being used and whether it is helping. If something isn't working, the plan can be revisited.

Questions About Your Child's 504 Plan?

Every child is different, and no guide can replace individualized support. If you would like help reviewing your child's plan, understanding accommodations, or preparing for a school meeting, schedule a consultation with Distributed Education Advocacy.

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