

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Staff Information Sheet

What is section 504?

- Section 504 is a Civil Rights Act which prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Louisa-Muscatine School District recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its students. No discrimination against any student solely due to his/her disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system. The school district has specific responsibilities under Section 504 which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate and (if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504) to afford access to necessary educational accommodations and services.
- Students who have IEPs and are receiving special education are covered under this law through their current IEPs.
- Other students who have a disability that substantially impacts a major life activity may also be eligible for protection, accommodation, and/or services under the law. Those students will have a separate Section 504 Accommodation Plan.

Staff Responsibilities

- If a teacher suspects that a student might be eligible under Section 504 it is the teacher's responsibility to contact the administrator or the Section 504 Coordinator in the building.
- If a parent expresses a concern that a student might be eligible under Section 504 it is the teacher's responsibility to contact the administrator or the Section 504 Coordinator in the building and to let the parent/guardian know who in the building to contact regarding this process.
- Teachers are responsible for participating on the team which determines 504 eligibility and helping determine appropriate and reasonable accommodation for the student.
- Teachers are responsible for knowing which students have Section 504 Accommodation Plans.
- Teachers are responsible for implementing 504 Accommodation Plans as written.

Section 504 Coordinators

If you have general questions about Section 504 or suspect that one of your students may be eligible under Section 504, please contact your principal, district at-risk coordinator, who also serves as the district 504 coordinator, or district-level support personnel.