

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The Law

Section 504 states that "no qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall be excluded from, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under" any program or activity that either receives Federal financial assistance or is conducted by any Executive agency or the United States Postal Service.

Schools

Section 504 is a federal civil rights law that is designed to eliminate disability discrimination in programs and activities that received federal funds. Since all public schools receive federal funds, all public school districts must comply with Section 504. Under Section 504, denying a disabled student a free appropriate public education constitutes disability discrimination.

Eligibility

Section 504 covers qualified students with disabilities who attend schools receiving Federal financial assistance. To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to: (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or (2) have a record of such impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such impairment.

Discrimination

The Lawrence County School System prohibits the discrimination against and/or the exclusion of any student from 504 services based upon their gender, ethnicity, race, home situation, migrant condition, or economic class.

Parental Rights / Grievances and Due Process

The Lawrence County School System adheres by the following grievance procedure:

Parents /students who wish to challenge a decision made by a 504 committee may file a written or oral complaint with the 504 Coordinator located at the Central Office, 700 Mahr Avenue, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464. Such complaints will be responded to within a reasonable time frame. The complainant(s) will be provided the opportunity to present evidence, receive a notification of findings, and be informed of the appeals process.