

Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Parent Information on Section 504 Policies and Procedures

If you feel your child may be eligible for a Section 504 Accommodation Plan due to a qualifying disability, please contact your school principal or access the information on the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's website at www.cmsdnet.net. The school principal is the school's Section 504 coordinator and has ample referral forms available in the main office for parents and teachers to use to begin the evaluation process.

We will use our best efforts to ensure that no student with a disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) within the District's jurisdiction will be denied, because of his/her disability, participation in curricular, intramural, or interscholastic activities or any of the services offered or rendered regularly to the students of this District. No otherwise qualified person shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. We are committed to ensure that students with Section 504 disabilities be identified, evaluated, and provided with a free appropriate public education. We not discriminate on the basis of disability with regard to admission, access to education services, treatment or employment in its programs and activities.

Our educational program will be equally accessible to all students at each grade level. Barrier-free access to school facilities will be provided to the maximum reasonable extent possible to ensure that no individual with a disability is denied an opportunity to participate in a District program available to persons without disabilities. Students with disabilities shall have facilities of a type and quality equivalent to those of students without disabilities.

By law, students who only "have a record of" or "are regarded as" having a disability are not entitled to services and/or accommodations under a Section 504 Plan. Only those students who presently have a physical or mental handicap which ***substantially limits one or more major life activity*** shall be entitled to a Section 504 Plan.

Any student who needs, or is believed to need, accommodations or related services not available through existing programs in order to receive a free appropriate public education may be referred by a parent, teacher, or another person for identification and possible evaluation of the student's individual educational needs.

If you have questions, please contact your principal or the District's Law Department (574-8210).

The primary goal of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is to become a premier school district in the United States of America.