

Section 504 Parent/Student Rights in Identification, Evaluation and Placement

(Please keep this explanation for future reference)

Below is a description of the rights granted by the federal *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* to students with disabilities. The intent of this notice is to keep you fully informed concerning decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions.

You have the right to the following:

- Right to have your child with disabilities take part in, and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of her or his disability.
- Right to receive all information in the parent's or guardian's native language or primary other mode of communication.
- Right to have your child receive a free appropriate public education which includes the right of the child to be educated with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.
- Right to have your child have equal opportunity to participate in school programs and extracurricular activities sponsored by the school.
- Right to receive notice a reasonable time before a district identifies, evaluates or changes your child's placement.
- Right to inspect and review all of your child's educational records, including the right to obtain copies of education records at reasonable cost unless the cost would deny you access to the records, and the right to amend the record if you believe information contained in the record is inaccurate or misleading, or if the school district refuses to amend the record, you have a right to request a hearing.
- Right to have educational evaluation and placement decisions made based on information from a variety of sources and by persons who know the needs of the student, meaning of evaluation data and placement options.
- Right to periodic reevaluation and evaluation before any significant change in placement.
- Right to an impartial hearing if you disagree with the school district's proposed action. You will be an active participant. You have the right to be represented by counsel in the impartial hearing process. You have the right to appeal the impartial hearing officer's decision.

To appeal a decision of a Section 504 Committee decision within the school district, contact the District Coordinator below. You may go directly to the Division of Administrative Law Appeals at the address below to seek an impartial hearing.

Krystla Fay, CAGS
Special Services Coordinator
Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School
476 North Avenue, Rochester, MA 02770
(508) 763-8011 Ext. 142

Division of Administrative Law Appeals
Bureau of Special Education Appeals
One Congress Street, 11th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626-7250