



What is Section 504?

Section 504 refers to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Here's what Section 504 means in the context of education:

What Section 504 Means:

1. **Rehabilitation Act of 1973:** Section 504 is part of the Rehabilitation Act, which aims to ensure equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities in various aspects of life, including education, employment, and access to government programs and services.

Key Aspects of Section 504 in Education:

1. **Nondiscrimination:** Section 504 mandates that schools and other recipients of federal funds cannot discriminate against individuals with disabilities. This includes providing equal access to educational programs, activities, and services.
2. **Eligibility:** Unlike [IDEA](#), which focuses specifically on students with disabilities who require special education services, Section 504 protects a broader group of individuals. It covers individuals who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as learning, walking, seeing, hearing, or caring for oneself.
3. **Accommodations and Services:** Under Section 504, schools must provide reasonable accommodations and supports to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities. Accommodations may include modifications to instructional methods, adjustments to classroom or testing environments, or the provision of assistive technology and auxiliary aids.

Application of Section 504 in Education:

1. **K-12 Education:** Section 504 applies to public elementary and secondary schools, as well as private schools that receive federal financial assistance. It ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to educational programs, extracurricular activities, and related services.
2. **Postsecondary Education:** Section 504 extends to colleges, universities, and vocational schools that receive federal funding. It requires these institutions to provide reasonable accommodations and accessibility measures to students with disabilities to allow them to participate fully in academic programs and campus activities.

In essence, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act ensures that individuals with disabilities have equal access to educational programs and activities funded by federal financial assistance.

If you have any more questions, feel free to reach out to hello@loveyourschool.org! We want to hear from you!

More Resources:

[FAQs: Section 504 Accommodation Plans - AZED](#)

[How to get a 504 plan for your child - Understood.Org](#)

[Differences between a 504 Plan and an Individualized Education Program \(IEP\) - NEA](#)

[The Difference Between IEPs and 504 Plans - CA SCDD](#)

[How to Get a 504 Plan, explained by a Special Education Advocate](#)