

Maryland School Mental Health Alliance*

504 Plans Information for Families and Caregivers

Definition

A 504 Plan is a legal document that provides accommodations to *regular education* students with special needs in major life activities. The 504 Plan falls under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and is a regulation of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. Some examples of major life activities addressed are: caring for oneself, walking, seeing, hearing, and *learning*. A 504 Plan is **not** an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for Special Education Students. Families may request a 504 Plan for children who, with reasonable accommodation, can be successful in a regular education program. For each case, staff and family at the meeting will need to make a decision about how often to review the 504 Plan and when follow-up meetings should be made.

Examples of What Might Be Included:

- Adjustment to test taking (more time, questions given orally)
- Seating near the blackboard or near the teacher
- A child may be excused from class to get medications
- A child with Diabetes may be allowed to eat in class

Who is Responsible for a 504 Plan?

- The student (if appropriate)
- Parent or Legal Guardian
- Teacher
- Administrator
- School 504 Coordinator may be a staff person on the Student Support and/or Child study Teams)

Others who may be included, as appropriate:

- School Counselor, Social Worker and/or Psychologist
- Physician, Psychiatrist, or other health professional
- Mental Health Clinician
- Speech/Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapist/Physical Therapist

Key Resources/Links

The Parental Advocate. *This site is dedicated to helping parents and concerned family members to understand the Special Education system, the laws governing services for Special Education and IEPs for their children, and how to work within the system to obtain the services a child requires.* <http://www.theparentaladvocate.com/>

What is a 504 plan? <http://www.theparentaladvocate.com/what-is-a-504-plan.htm>

Sample504 plan. <http://www.theparentaladvocate.com/sample-504-plan.htm>

The Maryland State Bar Association. *School Law in Maryland: Educational Rights of Children with Special Needs.*

<http://www.msba.org/departments/commpubl/publications/brochures/educationrights.htm>

Bridges4Kids. *Special Education: Section 504. Frequently Asked Questions and Resources.*

<http://www.bridges4kids.org/Section504.html>

United States Department of Health & Human Services. *Your rights under Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.* <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/504ada.html>

Learning Disabilities OnLine: LD In-Depth: *Developing 504 Classroom Accommodation Plans: A Collaborative Systematic Parent-Student-Teacher Approach.*

http://ldonline.org/ld_indepth/teaching_techniques/504_plans.html

Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health. www.mdcoalition.org
1-888-607-3637

The Parent's Place of Maryland, Inc. www.ppmd.org 410-768-9100

Learning Disability Association of Maryland. www.ldmaryland.org 1-888-265-6459

**Developed by the Center for School Mental Health (<http://csmh.umaryland.edu>) in collaboration with the Maryland School Mental Health Alliance (<http://www.msmha.org>).*