



## PARENT NOTICE OF SECTION 504 RIGHTS

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly known as “Section 504,” is a federal law whose purpose is to prohibit and prevent discrimination against students with disabilities who may participate in, or receive benefits from programs receiving federal financial assistance, *e.g.*, school districts, charter schools and other recipients. In the public schools specifically, Section 504 applies to ensure that eligible, disabled students are provided with educational benefits and opportunities equal to those provided to non-disabled students.

A student with a disability is one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of his/her major life activities/major bodily functions such as reading, concentration, thinking, learning, walking, seeing, hearing, breathing, working, and performing manual tasks, etc. Eligible students may be entitled to an accommodation plan that provides the student with the same opportunity to benefit from programs and services as afforded non-disabled students.

The purpose of the Notice is to inform parents and students of their rights at 34 CFR § 104.36 of the Section 504 regulations:

- The school district must provide you with written notice of your rights. If you need further explanation or clarification of any of the rights described in this Notice, contact the district’s Section 504 Coordinator who will assist you. See contact information at the bottom of this notice.
- Under Section 504, your child has the right to an appropriate education designed to meet his or her educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met [34 CFR § 104.33].
- To the maximum extent appropriate, your child has the right to be educated with children who are not disabled. Your child will be placed and educated in regular classes, unless the District demonstrates that his or her educational needs cannot be adequately met in the regular classroom, even with the use of supplementary aids and services. [34 CFR § 104.34] Your child has the right to services, facilities, and activities comparable to those provided to non-disabled students. [34 CFR § 104.34]
- You have the right to be notified by the District prior to any action regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child. [34 CFR § 104.36]
- You have the right to examine relevant documents and records regarding your child (generally documents relating to identification, evaluation, and placement of your child under Section 504). [34 CFR § 104.36]
- You have the right to a grievance hearing to contest any action taken by the District with regard to your child's identification, evaluation, or placement under Section 504. [34 CFR § 104.36].
- You have the right to participate personally at the hearing and to be represented by an attorney at your expense. You also have a right to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) or to file an action in federal district court.
- Please also review the Cabarrus County Board of Education Policy 1730/4022/7231, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities, and Policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure, for more information. A copy of the CCS Section 504 Handbook is available at <http://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/Page/5179> .
- If you wish to contest an action taken by the Section 504 Team by means of an impartial due-process hearing, you must submit a request for hearing to the District’s Section 504 Coordinator at the address below:

Angela Fitzwater  
Director of Exceptional Children  
4401 Old Airport Rd.  
Concord, NC 28025  
Telephone: 704-260-5775  
E-mail: [Angela.Fitzwater@cabarrus.k12.nc.us](mailto:Angela.Fitzwater@cabarrus.k12.nc.us)