

## How is a Student Evaluated Under Section 504?

A school team will conduct a section 504 evaluation for a student who, because of a disability, may need accommodations in the general education program. The team will:

- Be knowledgeable about the student;
- Evaluate the nature of the student's disability and the impact of the disability upon the student's education;
- Consider all available relevant information about the student drawn from a variety of sources; and
- Develop a Section 504 Plan if the student meets the criteria and accommodations are needed.

## Some Examples of Assistance That Can Be Provided in a Section 504 Plan Are:

- Additional set of textbooks for home
- Seating a student in the front of the class
- Allowing extra time between passing periods

## Questions?

Each of our school sites has an Assistant Principal who serves as the 504 coordinator. This person handles all 504 plans, in conjunction with the school counselor.

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San Mateo Union  
High School District

# Section 504 *and* Students with Disabilities



## Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a Federal Civil Rights Law That:

- Prohibits discrimination/harassment against individuals with mental or physical disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal Financial Assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.
- Requires that students with disabilities be provided a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

## What is Disability-Based Discrimination/Harassment?

- Disability-based discrimination/harassment is intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on disability that interferes with or denies a student participation in or receipt of benefits, services, or opportunities in District programs and activities.

## How does Section 504 Apply to Students with Disabilities?

- Under Section 504, a plan may be developed to assist those students with disabilities who do not qualify for special education services but who may need accommodations that can be provided to them within the general education program.

## How does Section 504 Define “Disability?”

- A student is considered to have a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Examples include:

- A student with a normal ability to learn academically, but has mobility impairment, uses a wheelchair, has a neurological disorder, or is missing a limb.
- A student with a normal ability to learn academically but has a medical condition such as epilepsy, hemophilia, diabetes, AIDS, arthritis, allergies, asthma, tuberculosis, ADHD, cancer, spinal bifida or cerebral palsy.
- A student who has frequent referrals for behavioral problems or is under a doctor’s care for a psychological condition such as anxiety or depression.

## What is a “Substantial Limitation?”

A major life activity is substantially limited when a person is unable to perform a major life activity that the average student of the same grade or age, or as compared to most students of the same grade or age, can perform.

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity shall be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, eyeglasses, assistive technology, auxiliary aids, learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications.

## What are “Major Life Activities?”

Major life activities may include, but are not limited to, functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, reading, concentrating, thinking, and communicating.

