

Frequently Asked Questions

My student has a Section 504 Plan from a different school district or from a local charter or private school. Now that my student attends an IUSD school, will IUSD implement the old Section 504 Plan?

Yes, but your child's school should also convene a Section 504 team meeting to review eligibility and/or review/revise the Section 504 Plan. Different school districts have different facilities, schedules, curricula, and expectations. The accommodations and supports in the old Section 504 Plan may not be necessary or applicable in the new IUSD school.

Is Section 504 the same thing as "special education" or an IEP?

No. Eligibility criteria under Section 504 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") is distinct, and different. Unlike the IDEA, your student may qualify under Section 504 without requiring the provision of special education and related services. In addition, Section 504 requires equal access whereas the IDEA requires meaningful educational progress.

My student has suffered a temporary injury. Can we develop a 504 plan until the injury heals?

Generally, no. Section 504 is applicable to students with disabilities, not temporary illnesses or injuries. If your student has an illness or injury that is minor and will resolve in six months or less, you should work with your child's school site to discuss short term accommodations that may be necessary but also notify the site if the injury becomes prolonged and is no longer

temporary or minor — in which case a 504 evaluation may be conducted.

Additional Resources

For more information about Section 504, visit the U.S. Department of Education's website:

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>

If you believe that your student has been subjected to discrimination or if you believe that the Section 504 process has not occurred properly, you may file a complaint.

Please see IUSD's Section 504 Procedural Safeguards for details. They are available at:

www.iusd.org Section 504

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**IRVINE UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Section 504: Ensuring Equal Access for Students with Disabilities

Information for Parents, Guardians and Students

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What is Section 504?

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law that requires public schools to provide **necessary accommodations to students with qualifying disabilities in order to ensure equal access to the educational environment.**

A medical diagnosis, alone, is insufficient to qualify a student as disabled under Section 504. Instead, a Section 504 team meeting must be convened and **your student must be evaluated**, in order to determine whether a student, in fact, has a qualifying disability under Section 504.

In evaluating your student, a team of knowledgeable individuals will consider whether the student has a **physical or mental impairment** that **substantially limits** one or more **major life activities**, without regard to the ameliorative effects of any mitigating measures.

A few examples of physical impairments that *may* result in Section 504 eligibility are:

- Diabetes
- Severe Asthma or Allergies
- Mobility difficulties due to an anatomical difference or loss
- Hearing or Vision impairments

A few examples of mental impairments that *may* result in Section 504 eligibility are:

- Anxiety Disorder
- Depression
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactive Disorder
- Central Auditory Processing Disorder

The Section 504 Process in IUSD

