

Can the Section 504 Committee ensure accommodations to the ACT/SAT/AP Exams?

No. In order to receive accommodations on these assessments, students must go through the testing organization's application process. The testing organization will make an independent determination of whether accommodations on college entrance exams will be permitted. If there is a requirement for additional assessment data, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide that data. Public school systems are not responsible to provide testing in order for students to apply for accommodations on tests administered by other entities. Parents/guardians should contact the campus Section 504 coordinator to initiate the application process.

Will NISD automatically implement a Section 504 plan from a different district, charter school, or private school?

No. Different school districts have different facilities, schedules, curricula, and expectations. The accommodations and related services in the previous Section 504 plan may not be appropriate in the NISD school. Parents/guardians should contact their child's school, providing supporting information and documentation, to refer their child to the Section 504 process.

When a student suffers a temporary injury, can a Section 504 Plan be developed until the injury heals?

No. Section 504 is a federal civil rights law that protects students with disabilities, not temporary injuries. In general, if a condition will resolve in six months or less, then the student is injured and not disabled, and therefore is not eligible for a Section 504 plan.

Additional Resources

For more information about the law, refer to any of the following entities:

U.S. Department of Education's website:

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

Contact information for the Office for Civil Rights:

Dallas Office
Office of Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620
Dallas, Texas 75201-6810
Phone: (214)661-9600
Fax: (214)661-9587; TDD: (877)521-2172
Email: OCR.Dallas@ed.gov

Contact information for TEA :

Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701
(512)463-9734

For questions or concerns, visit the NISD Section 504 website:

<https://nisd.net/academics/section-504>

**Section 504
A Parent
Information Guide
for Section 504 of
the Rehabilitation
Act of 1973**



**Northside Independent School
District**
Section 504 Office

[https://nisd.net/academics/
section-504](https://nisd.net/academics/section-504)

What is Section 504?

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Unlike Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that governs special education, Section 504 is not an education, service, or funding statute. The purpose of Section 504 is to ensure that individuals with disabilities are given the same opportunity to participate in programs and activities as are their nondisabled peers.

Who is eligible under Section 504?

Students may qualify for protection under Section 504 if they have a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. A label, disability, or diagnosis, alone, does not make a student eligible under Section 504. The disability must substantially limit the student's performance as compared to the performance of the average student in the general population.

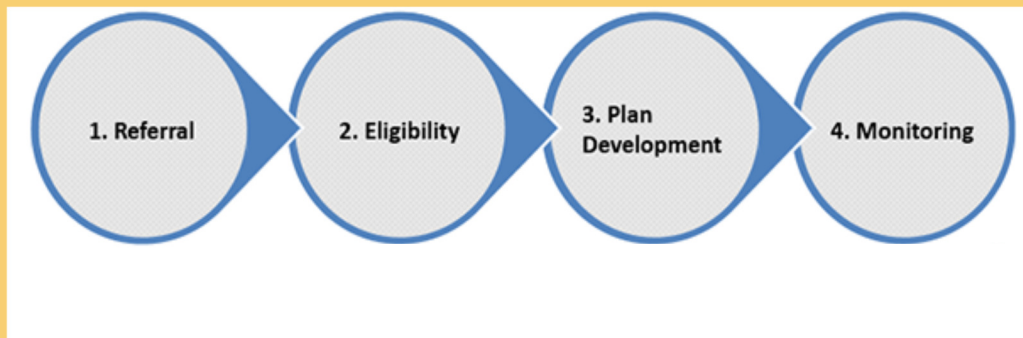
Does Section 504 require an evaluation to determine eligibility?

Yes. However, evaluation does not necessarily mean a test or formal psychological evaluation. It refers to the gathering of data and/or information from a variety of sources so that the Section 504 committee may make the required determinations. Depending on the suspected disability, common sources of evaluation data are grades, attendance records, health information, standardized test scores, teacher comments, observations, medical records, discipline referrals, etc. The committee will consider any data provided by the parent, including medical documentation and private evaluations.

What is a 504 Plan?

This is a written document outlining specific accommodations and/or related services that are necessary for the student to access all programs and facilities. This may include extracurricular activities as well. All accommodations that are approved by the Section 504 committee must be necessary due to the specific substantial limitations caused by the student's documented disability. Accommodations are intended to level the playing field and not to give an unfair advantage.

The Section 504 Process in NISD:



1. Referral:

Parents/Guardians are invited to refer their child to the 504 process if they believe that their student has a physical or mental impairment that could make their child eligible for Section 504 protections. Each school has a Section 504 coordinator who will facilitate the process. Other individuals may also make referrals, such as health care professionals, teachers, and other school staff members.

2. Eligibility:

Once the referral has been received by the school, the Section 504 coordinator will ask the parent/guardian to provide medical documentation or additional information and invite the parent/guardian to attend a Section 504 eligibility determination meeting. At the meeting, the committee will review all available information and determine whether or not the student is eligible for Section 504.

3. Plan Development:

If the student is determined to be eligible, then the Section 504 committee will write a Section 504 plan for the student, describing the accommodations and services that the student needs in order to access the general education curriculum at school.

4. Monitoring:

The Section 504 committee will meet annually to review the student's Section 504 plan and to determine whether any changes are needed. Parents/guardians can also request a meeting if they think that the Section 504 Plan needs to be reviewed or updated. In addition to reviewing the student's Section 504 plan each year, the Section 504 committee may also review the student's eligibility for Section 504 every three years.

All decisions are made by the Section 504 committee at the school. The committee includes school individuals who are knowledgeable about the student, the evaluation data, or about the accommodations and curriculum. Although parents/guardians are not considered committee members, their participation and feedback are welcomed and encouraged.