

**Section 504: Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) is an Act that prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. For the purposes of Section 504, the term “disability” with respect to an individual means:

1. a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
2. a record of such an impairment; or
3. being regarded as having such an impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Waterbury Public Schools recognize a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel, students, parents and members of the public who participate in school sponsored programs. In this regard, the Waterbury Public Schools will not knowingly permit discrimination against any person with a disability in any of the programs operated by the school system. Persons who feel that they may have been discriminated against on the basis of disability should contact the Waterbury Public School’s Section 504 Coordinator.

The school district also has specific responsibilities under Section 504 with respect to providing access to appropriate educational services for students who qualify under Section 504. These responsibilities include the obligation to identify, to evaluate, and to afford access to appropriate educational services. If the parent or guardian disagrees with the decisions made by the professional staff of the school district with respect to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of their child, he/she has a right to an impartial hearing. Additional written information about an impartial hearing is available on request from the Section 504 Coordinator.

Please contact the Section 504 Coordinator for the Waterbury Public Schools, at phone number 203-574-8000 with any additional questions or concerns about this policy.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited.  
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§791, 793-794 (2006), (34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 104)  
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§12101-12213; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2006); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2006)  
Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008