

Lenawee Intermediate School District Section 504 Parent Rights

What is Section 504?

Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 701 *et seq*) prohibits a school district that receives Federal financial assistance from *excluding from participation in any school district program or activity, denying the benefit of any school district program or activity, or subjecting to discrimination* any otherwise qualified person as a result of a disability.

This notice is intended to inform you of you and your child's rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Your Section 504 Rights

You have the following rights under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act:

- Have your child take part in and receive benefits from public education without discrimination because of his/her handicapping condition.
- Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-handicapped students.
- Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the LISD.
- Have an evaluation that draws on information from a variety of sources and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data and placement options.
- Be informed of any proposed actions related to eligibility and plan for services.
- Examine all relevant educational records and assessments relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program and placement.
- Receive all information in your native language and primary mode of communication.
- Periodic re-evaluations and an evaluation before any significant change in program/service modifications.
- File a grievance with the LISD over an alleged violation of Section 504 regulations.
- Appeal a decision pertaining to identification, evaluation and education placement through a due process hearing.
- An impartial hearing if there is disagreement with the LISD's proposed action not resolved through the initial hearing.
- Be represented by counsel in the impartial hearing process.
- Appeal the impartial hearing officer's decision.
- Obtain copies of educational records at reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
- A response from the LISD to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
- Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time and advise you of the right to a hearing.

The Section 504 Process

Your child has the right to an evaluation before the LISD determines if he or she is eligible under Section 504. You have the right to:

- Receive notice before the LISD takes any action regarding the identification, evaluation, and placement of your child.
- Have evaluation and placement decisions made by a group of persons, including persons who know your child, the meaning of the evaluation information, and the placement options available.
- Have evaluation decisions based on a variety of sources, such as aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical conditions, medical records, and parental observations.
- Refuse consent for the initial evaluation and initial placement of your child.
- If your child is eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic re-evaluations, including re-evaluations before any significant change is made in your child's placement.

If You Disagree with the LISD's Decision

If you disagree with the LISD's decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, or placement under Section 504, you may request mediation or an impartial due process hearing. You and your child have the right to take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you. Hearing requests and other concerns can be made to the LISD's Section 504 Coordinator:

Heather Reau
Special Education Coordinator of Compliance
2946 Sutton Road
Adrian, Michigan 49221
heather.reau@lisd.us | 517.266.6973

You have the right to file a complaint of discrimination with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), or to file a complaint in federal court. Generally, an OCR complaint may be filed within 180 calendar days of the act that you believe was discriminatory. The regional office is located at 600 Superior Avenue East Suite 750 Cleveland, OH 44114
Phone: 216-522-4970/TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov
Website: www.ed.gov/OCR.