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## PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 defines a person with a disability as anyone who:

1. has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working;
2. has a record of such impairment; or
3. is regarded as having such an impairment.

A physical impairment includes any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more enumerated body systems. Mental impairment is defined as any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide free and appropriate public education to each student with a disability within its jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. No discrimination against any person with a disability shall knowingly be permitted in any program or practices in the school district. Students may be found to have a disability under this policy even though they do not require services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Due process rights of students with disabilities and their parents under Section 504 will be enforced. If the parent or person in parental relationship disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing. Director of Student Services, or a designee, will serve as District Coordinator of Section 504 activities.