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School District U-46
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SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT INFORMATION AND PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS

Please Keep This Explanation for Future Reference

Section 504 is an Act which prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. The Act 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 (major life activities include activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, eating, lifting, concentrating, sleeping, bending, thinking, standing, reading, communicating, and operation of a major bodily function);
2. has a record of such an impairment, or;
3. is regarded as having such an impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, School District U-46 recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person due to his/her disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system.

The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services.

The following is a description of the rights granted by this federal law to students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights should you disagree with any of these decisions.

You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination on the basis of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under this federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or educational placement for your child.
4. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-disabled students.

5. Have your child receive services as necessary to provide a free and appropriate public education if she/he is found to be eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities.
6. Have evaluation, educational and programming decisions made by a group of persons (including persons who are knowledgeable about the student) and based upon a variety of information sources, and evaluation data. Programming options must be provided.
7. Have transportation provided to and from any alternative placement setting provided for in the student's 504 Accommodation Plan at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and educational program.
10. Obtain copies of your child's educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
11. Receive a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
12. 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.
13. Request an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. You and the student may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you. Hearing requests must be made to the Chief Legal Officer.
14. Seek review of the Impartial Hearing Officer's Decision by a court of competent jurisdiction.
15. File a local grievance.

The person in this district who is responsible for assuring that the district complies with Section 504 is the Assistant Director of Specialized Student Services-Compliance. 847 888-5000 x 5921.