



MA Board of Directors' Policy on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscriminatory statute enacted by the United States Congress that prohibits discrimination based upon a disability. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law that protects the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. This school is federally mandated and locally funded through the Milestone Academy Charter School Board. There is a "Section 504 Chairperson" at the school site in place to conference with parents/guardians and the community-at-large as concerns and problems arise.

Section 504 protects eligible students, employees, and other individuals with disabilities from discrimination based on disability and provides for reasonable accommodations that enable them to work and learn. A team (School Building Level Committee -SBLC) comprised of persons knowledgeable of the student determines, with evaluation data, if the individual meets eligibility criteria. Any individual who has a physical or mental impairment, which substantially limits one or more major life activities, may qualify for accommodations under Section 504. Physical or mental impairment refers to any physiological disorder, mental or psychological disorder, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the systems of the body. The Milestone Academy Charter School Board has a unified designated plan of action at the school site to identify, evaluate, and place students with disabilities to receive various accommodations in the regular instructional settings. An "Individual Accommodation Plan" is developed as a result of an Initial Section 504 Evaluation for eligible students with periodic reevaluations every three (3) years and reviewed annually with in-class teaching and learning strategies updated as needed. Written parental consent and support is requested as a "best practice" in communicating with parents.

Section 504 provides an "even playing field" through accommodations. If students are in need of more exceptional services they may meet eligibility for educational services under the "Individual with Disabilities Education Act" (IDEA) because additional measures shall be taken to provide students with "free and appropriate public education" (FAPE).

"Education is Our Mission ~ Teaching is Our Passion"