

# Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

## Section 504 is...

A federal civil rights law. It protects students from disability discrimination by public schools, and by any college, trade school, or private school that gets federal funding.

## Section 504 covers...

Students of all ages who have a physical or mental disability that substantially limits a major life activity. That can include reading, learning, and concentrating.

## People with disabilities have the right to...

**Reasonable accommodations** giving them equal access to learning and school activities. Schools don't need to change their programs — just make sure they're accessible. Public K–12 schools may provide a written 504 plan when a disability gets in the way of a student's ability to learn the general education curriculum. A 504 plan may include:



### Accommodations

Changes in the classroom to how the child learns the curriculum

Examples: extra time on tests, seating near the front of the class



### Assistive technology

Tools that help the child work around barriers to learning

Examples: calculators, keyboards, graphic organizers



### School services

Services that help the child get access to general education

Examples: speech therapy, transportation



## Experienced disability discrimination?

K–12 public schools must provide a way for families to raise and resolve disputes. You can also visit [ocrcas.ed.gov](https://ocrcas.ed.gov) to learn how to file a complaint about disability discrimination by a school.