

Non-Instructional Operations

Compliance with 504 Regulations

The Easton, Redding, and Region 9 School Systems will comply with all aspects of the Section 504 regulations of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 prevents discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities operated by the school systems.

No otherwise qualified individual with disabilities shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, as defined in Section 706(8) of the Rehabilitation Act, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any programs or activity conducted by the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 School Systems.

The district has a responsibility to follow the procedural requirements of Section 504 to afford each student a free, appropriate education, which includes procedures for pre-placement evaluation, placement procedures and procedural safeguards. Additionally, Section 504 addresses placement in the Least Restrictive Environment for both academic and nonacademic settings. The district also recognizes that there may be some impaired students who are not eligible for Special Education services under IDEA but who are still defined as disabled and eligible for services and protection from discrimination under the Section 504 definitions and regulations.

In order to ensure that the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 School Systems do not discriminate in providing equal access to programs and services on the basis of disability, the following definitions, requirements and procedures are provided.

Definitions:

Disabled Person means any person who has (i) a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activity, (ii) has a record of such impairment, (iii) is regarded as having such impairment.

Physical or Mental Impairment means (i) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement or anatomical loss affecting one or more body system; (ii) any mental or psychological disorder such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness and specific remaining disabilities.

Major Life Activity means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

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Appropriate Education means the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet the individual educational needs of disabled persons as adequately as the needs of non-disabled persons. Implementation of an individualized education plan developed in accordance with the Individuals With Disabilities Act is one means of meeting this standard.

Committee of Knowledgeable People means persons knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of evaluation data, and programming options. (A properly constituted Planning and Placement Team of Student Assistance Team would meet this definition.)

Requirements:

1. That Easton, Redding, and Region 9 Public Schools annually locate and identify qualified persons with disabilities residing in the district who are not receiving a public education.
2. Provide the school system's legal requirements to the disabled persons and their parents or guardians.
3. Provide educational services in a setting with persons who are not disabled, to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the disabled person. The school system shall make reasonable accommodations to allow a disabled person placed in the regular education environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment with the use of supplementary aids and services, cannot be achieved satisfactorily.
4. Provide pre-placement evaluation consistent with that required under IDEA.
5. Ensure that placement decisions are carefully considered by a group of persons knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data and program options.
6. Provide periodic reevaluation of students found eligible for services.
7. Develop procedural safeguards consistent with that required under IDEA.

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8. Ensure access to non-academic and extracurricular services and activities in such a manner as to afford disabled students an opportunity for participation in such services and activities. The “Committee of Knowledgeable People”, e.g. PPT shall consider the impact of any modifications on other non-disabled classmates.
9. Ensure the availability of procedures for filing a grievance with the school district over an alleged violation of Section 504 regulations.
10. Identify at least one person to coordinate compliance and identification procedures.

Parents/Students Notification

Rights in Identification, Evaluation and Placement

The following is a description of rights granted by federal law to students with disabilities and their parents. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if 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 because of his/her disabling condition. If you are identified as a disabled parent you also have the right to ask for reasonable accommodations so that you may participate in parental educational activities including, but not limited to, the planning of your child's educational program;
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law;
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child;
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. 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, including non-academic and extra-curricular activities offered by the district;

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5. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-disabled students;
6. Have your child receive special education and related services if she/he is found to be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA" PL 94-142, as amended) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;
7. Have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and placement options;
8. Have transportation to and from school provided that allows your child to take part in educational services described in your child's educational plan.
9. Examine educational records relating to your child, including records regarding decisions on identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement;
10. Obtain one (1) free copy of educational records and additional copies at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;
11. 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 and to request a hearing regarding any denial of a request to amend such records;
13. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. You and your child may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you. Hearing requests must be made to the State Department of Education;
14. File a local grievance.

The person in this district who is responsible for coordinating 504 compliance and identification procedures is the Director of Special Services. (*local district to insert name, location and telephone number*)

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SERVICE PLAN

**EASTON, REDDING AND REGION 9 PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES**

**SERVICE PLAN
SECTION 504**

Student Name

Parent's Name

Date of Birth

Address

School

Phone Number

Grade

The Planning and Placement Team's assessment held on *(Date)* _____ determined that this student does not meet the criteria for Special Education services under P.L. 94-142 regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

However, *(Name)* _____ is a qualified disabled student under the Section 504 regulations of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The following services and/or aids are required for *(Name)* _____ under the Section 504 regulations of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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Grievance Procedures

Public Complaints About Facilities or Services

Citizens of the _____ District who have complaints about school facilities or services may register such complaints with the 504 Coordinator. *

Required Information Concerning Complaint:

- Name(s) of person(s) making the complaint.
- Whether the person(s) represents an individual or group.
- Whether the person(s) making the complaint has discussed the problem with the site administrator.
- A summary of the complaint and suggested solution.

Processing of Complaint:

- Level 1: The complaint shall be presented in writing, with a suggested solution, to the 504 Coordinator. Five (5) days will be allowed for a reply.
- Level 2: If a satisfactory response is not received within five (5) days, a copy of the complaint may be forwarded to the Superintendent, who will have ten (10) days to reply.
- Level 3: If a satisfactory response is not received within ten (10) days, a copy of the complaint may be forwarded to the Board for its consideration. Consideration as to the disposition of the complaint will be given within thirty (30) days.

*If the matters of concern are eligibility and related procedures, procedural safeguards, or provision of a free and appropriate public education, the matter may be referred at any juncture in the procedure to the appropriate compliance coordinator of the State Department of Education through IDEA Due Process Procedures.

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Complainant

Representing

Date of Presentation

School (if appropriate)

Prior contacts with the 504 Coordinator or teacher

Statement of Complaint:

Action Requested:

Signature

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et. seq.

Section 504, U.S. Rehabilitation Act, 1973, 29 U.S.C. 791

Policy adopted: January 18, 2000

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REDDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9