

What is Section 504?

- ▶ The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 contains a basic non-discrimination section that prohibits entities receiving federal monies from discriminating against persons who participate in the programs on the basis of a disability.
- ▶ The purpose of Section 504 in the schools is to provide children with disabilities an equal at success in the classroom.

What is the difference between IDEA and Section 504?

- ▶ IDEA provides the schools with money to create special education programs for students with the most severe forms of disabilities.
- ▶ Students must be evaluated and qualify under very specific and narrow criteria. The ARD Committee, which includes the parent, goes through a formalized process to write an IEP.

The Section 504 Committee meets, looks at the data, and decides:

- ▶ 1. Does the student have a disability?
- ▶ 2. Does the disability affect a major life activity?
- ▶ 3. Is the student substantially limited by this disability? (Compared to average student in general population-not based on student's potential)

If the student is eligible, the 504 committee decides if the student may need:

Once the student is eligible, the 504 committee decides if the student needs:

- ▶ In-class accommodations
- ▶ Related services
- ▶ Behavior management plan
- ▶ Other programs
- ▶ Testing accommodations

How often should the 504 Committee meet?

- ▶ The student's 504 Accommodation Plan should be discussed by the grade level team at the end of every year. If the student does not need any modifications to the current plan, the counselor will convey that to the parent.
- ▶ The teacher(s) should be prepared to discuss strengths and weaknesses, as well as recommendations for accommodations.
- ▶ A re-evaluation must be conducted every three years.