

Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to students with handicaps. 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 handicapping conditions.
2. have the local school system 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 peers to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the local school system make reasonable accommodation to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities.
5. have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to non-disabled students.
6. have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources, and by persons who know the students and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. have your child receive special education and related services if he/she is found to be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) [20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.*].
8. have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the local school system) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the local school system.
9. have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the local school system.
10. obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
11. obtain a response from the local school system to reasonable request for explanations and interpretations of your child's educational records.
12. request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy of your child. If the local school system refuses this request for amendment,

the principal of your child's school or his/her designee shall notify you within a reasonable time and advise you of your right to an impartial hearing.

13. examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, and placement.

14. file a formal complaint with the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. The Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education enforces the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The address of the Regional Office which includes Georgia is: Office for Civil Rights, Region IV, and 61 Forsyth Street, Suite 19T70, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

15. request a local hearing.