



Section 504 Policy

Board Approved: 12/14/2023

The Governing Board of Empower Generations recognizes the need to identify and evaluate learners with disabilities, and desires to ensure that all learners, including learners with disabilities, have a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This means that learners with disabilities will receive the same education as learners without a disability.

The School Director shall designate a 504 coordinator to establish and implement evaluation procedures to be used whenever there is reason to believe that a learner, because of a disability, needs or is believed to need special instruction or related services. This coordinator shall also ensure a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an opportunity for the parent/guardian of the learner to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with the opportunity for participation by the learner's parent/guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

The School Director or designee shall ensure that identified learners with disabilities receive regular or special education and related aids and services designed to meet their individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled learners are met.

If the learner is found to have a disability that qualifies him/her for a FAPE under Section 504, then the Section 504 multi-disciplinary team members shall develop a written Section 504 service plan for the learner. Upon reviewing the nature of the disability and how it impacts the learner's education, the members shall determine what general and/or special education services, related aids, supplemental aids and services, accommodations and/or modifications, are needed in order to provide the learner with a FAPE. The learner shall be educated with non-disabled learners to the maximum extent appropriate.

The School Director or designee shall maintain a list of impartial hearing officers who are qualified and willing to conduct Section 504 hearings. The Section 504 multi-disciplinary team shall provide the parent/guardian with a copy of the Section 504 service plan. If the Section 504 multi-disciplinary team determines that the learner is not eligible under Section 504, the parent/guardian shall receive a copy of the Section 504 multidisciplinary team meeting notes stating the basis for this decision. The parent/guardian shall also receive a copy of the procedural safeguards guaranteed under Section 504.