

What is Section 504?



Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. It applies to all recipients of federal financial assistance.

To be eligible for discrimination protection under Section 504, one must:

- Have a disability;
- Have record of a disability; or
- Be regarded as having a disability.

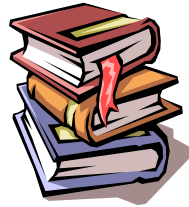
A disability under Section 504 is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Persons protected under Section 504 who currently have a disability may be eligible to receive accommodations to assure equal access to programs and services and the opportunity to succeed academically.

For more information about Section 504, visit the Office for Civil Rights' website at:

Office for Civil Rights – Section 504 Regulations <http://www.ed.gov/policy/rights/reg/ocr/edlite-34cfr104.html>

Resources



Mooney, J and Cole, D. (2000). *Learning Outside the Lines*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Pauk, W. (2001). *How to Study in College*. Boston:

Houghton Mifflin Company.

Roffman, A. (2007). *Guiding Teens with Learning Disabilities: Navigating the transition from high school to adulthood*. New York: Random House.

Wax, I and Kravets, M. (2010). *The K&W Guide to Colleges for Students With Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder*. Princeton Review.

ACT Accommodations

<http://www.act.org/aap/disab/index.html>



Association for Higher

Education and Disabilities <http://ahead.org/>

College Board (PSAT, SAT, AP)

<http://www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html>

National Center for Learning Dis-

abilities: College & Work <http://www.nclد.org/college-aamp-work>

Texas A&M Disability Office <http://disability.tamu.edu/>

The purpose of this brochure is to provide general information regarding Section 504. Please contact either the campus or district Section 504 coordinator for more information.

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**CLEAR CREEK
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

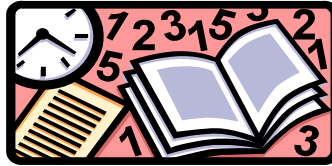
College Services for Section 504 Students



What are the Differences Between Section 504 Services in High School and in College?

- Section 504 places the responsibility on students to notify the college of the disability and to request any needed academic adjustments.
- Section 504 requires public secondary schools to provide evaluations free to students needed for identification of disability. Colleges are not required to do so. In other words, you may have to pay for any additional testing to substantiate a disability.
- Colleges offer limited accommodations such as early registration, a somewhat reduced course load, and extra time on exams. Unlike in high school, there is no legal duty to re-teach, repackage or reformulate the curriculum.
- Know your rights and responsibilities as a student with disabilities. For more information, go to: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>

TIPS



You should understand what your diagnosis is and what your disability means. Don't rely on your parents to take care of your needs. Colleges need to treat you like an adult and in some situations are required by law to work with you, not your parents.

Keep copies of your Section 504 paperwork and documentation from high school.

Understand how your disability may affect a college major. For example, if you have a math disability, consider whether your major requires upper level math courses.

Approach the Students with Disabilities Services office of your college during the summer prior to enrollment. Allow plenty of time for the process.

Know the documentation guidelines required by the college. Be sure documentation is current.

Be willing to take a reduced course load, for example 12 hours a semester rather than 18 hours.

Use services available to all students, i.e. writing labs, study groups, tutorials, the library.

MORE TIPS

Use a planner. Even if you didn't need one in high school, you will need one in college.

Learn to touch type – it really helps.

Take care of your needs – eat well, get enough rest and exercise.

Learn the essentials of self-advocacy:

- Independently manage study skills (note taking, test taking tips, outlining, time management, etc)
- Individual approach to learning (are you auditory, visual or kinesthetic learner? Morning classes or later in the day?)
- Mastery of technology (word processing, computer software, APPS, digital books, etc).

For more study skill tips:

- Cornell Learning Strategies Center <http://lsc.sas.cornell.edu/>
- How to Study <http://www.howtostudy.org/>
- Saint John University Study Skills Guide <http://www.csbsju.edu/academicadvising/helplist.htm>
- Study Guides and Strategies <http://www.studygs.net/index.htm>
- University of Minnesota Study Strategies <http://www.d.umn.edu/>