

Northern Highlands Regional School District
Northern Highlands Regional High School
298 Hillside Avenue
Allendale, New Jersey 07401

Section 504 Procedural Safeguards Notice

The Northern Highlands Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability in admission, access, treatment, or employment in its programs, services, and activities. Applicants, students, parents/guardians, employees, referral agencies, and all organizations holding agreements with the District are hereby notified of this policy. Any person with concerns regarding the District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 or the Americans with Disabilities Act is directed to contact:

Name: Christine Wegert
Position: Director of Guidance/Section 504 Coordinator
Phone Number: 201-327-8700 ext. 509
E-mail: wegertc@northernhighlands.org

This document summarizes the procedural protections and rights you have as the parent of student who may qualify for accommodations or services under Section 504 and the ADA.

INTRODUCTION. Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, along with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requires that the school district may not discriminate against students with disabilities. Accordingly, the district has adopted policies and procedures to ensure that discrimination does not take place. In the rest of this document, we will refer to these laws as "Section 504."

IDEA ELIGIBILITY. Many students who meet the definition of an "individual with a disability" under Section 504/ADA also qualify for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This document does not address these students or their parents. Such students are served pursuant to the requirements of the IDEA. The rest of this document addresses only the rights of parents of students who satisfy the definition of an individual with a disability under Section 504 but do not qualify under IDEA.

AN APPROPRIATE EDUCATION. If it is determined that your child meets the definition of an "individual with a disability" under Section 504, then your child will be entitled to a free and appropriate public education. This means that your child's education will be designed to meet his/her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met. A "free" public education means that no fees will be imposed on you except for the same fees that are imposed on parents of nondisabled students. However, insurance companies and other third parties that are obligated to provide or pay for services to your child are still obligated to do so.

NOTICE. You have the right to be notified by the district prior to any action that would identify your child as having a disability, evaluate your child for services under Section 504, or place your child in a program based on a disability.

EVALUATION. If the school district feels it is necessary to evaluate your child for purposes of services under Section 504, the district will seek your informed written consent prior to conducting the evaluation. An evaluation will not be conducted unless you give consent. However, school officials may review existing records, test scores, grades, teacher reports, and recommendations and other such information without your consent to the same extent they would do so for nondisabled students.

If an evaluation needs to be conducted, the school will make sure that

- All testing and other evaluation procedures are validated for the specific purpose for which they are used;
- They are administered by trained personnel in conformity with the instructions provided by the producer;

- They include tests and other evaluation materials designed to assess specific areas of educational need and not merely those designed to elicit a general IQ score; and
- Tests are selected and administered to best ensure that they accurately measure what the test seeks to measure, rather than any sensory, speaking, or manual impairments the student may have (except when the test is designed to measure sensory, speaking, or manual skills).

An evaluation that satisfies these requirements will be conducted prior to your child's initial placement and conducted or reviewed prior to any subsequent significant change in placement.

If your child is identified as an individual with a disability under Section 504 the school will periodically reevaluate your child as appropriate.

PLACEMENT. If your child is identified as an individual with a disability under Section 504, placement decisions about your child will be made by the school's 504/I&RS Team, who, are knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options. You will be invited to participate in any meeting of the 504/I&RS Team if your child's placement and/or services are to be discussed. The 504/I&RS Team will also ensure that your child is placed in the "least restrictive environment."

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT. If your child is identified as an individual with a disability under Section 504, your child will be placed and served in the "least restrictive environment." This means that your child will be served with nondisabled students in the regular education environment to the maximum extent appropriate. Prior to removing your child from the regular education environment due to his/her disability, the school will consider the use of supplementary aids and services.

EXAMINATION OF RECORDS. You have the right to see and examine any educational records that pertain to your child or are relevant in serving your child.

APPEALS. If you disagree with a decision of the 504/I&RS Team regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of your child you have the right to an appeal. You have the right to participate in such an appeal.

If you wish to request an appeal, you must make a written request for an appeal within 30 calendar days from the time you receive the written notice of the decision of the 504/I&RS Team. Your request for an appeal must be filed with the district's Section 504 Compliance Officer.

Name: Tony LaRocca
Position: Assistant Principal/Section 504 Compliance Officer
Phone Number: 201-327-8700 ext. 501
E-mail: laroccat@northernhighlands.org

Upon receipt of a timely request for an appeal, the district's Section 504 Compliance Officer will notify you of the date, time, and location of the appeal. If you disagree with the decision of the compliance officer, you have the right to a review of that decision through the Office for Civil Rights.

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. You also have the right to file a complaint with the United State Office for Civil Rights.