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INTRODUCTION

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (commonly referred to as “Section 504”) prohibits discrimination against students on the basis of disability.

This manual contains information, guidelines, policies, procedures, and forms to achieve compliance with Section 504 with respect to the education of the District’s students, in a manner consistent with the District’s non-discrimination policies.

The District expects its employees to be knowledgeable about its Section 504 procedures. If you have Section 504 questions concerning either current or prospective students, please contact the District’s Section 504 Coordinator:

Dr. Courtney Szucs  
Executive Director of Special Services  
Fenton Area Public Schools  
404 W. Ellen St.  
Fenton, MI 48430  
(810) 591-8302

Although Section 504 also applies to employment and facility access by individuals with disabilities, this Manual only addresses student issues under Section 504.

OVERVIEW

Section 504 is a federal law which prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities. The law provides:

No otherwise qualified individual with a disability…shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance…

29 USC § 794

One of the principal purposes of Section 504 is to ensure that students with disabilities are not denied access to educational facilities, programs, and opportunities on the basis of their disability.

For a student to have a disability which may be protected under this law, he or she must: (1) have a mental or physical impairment, (2) which substantially limits, (3) one or more major life activities. For a student to be considered an “eligible student” under Section 504, all three criteria must be fulfilled.

Under Section 504, schools that receive federal funds may not discriminate against eligible students with disabilities. Section 504 also protects students who have a record of a disability, and students who are regarded as having a disability. Discrimination against students in either category is prohibited under Section 504.

Section 504 requires the District to provide a free appropriate public education (“FAPE”) to each eligible student who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity. Under Section 504, FAPE consists of the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services designed to meet the student’s individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met in accordance with Section 504 requirements pertaining to educational setting, evaluation, placement, and procedural safeguards. The FAPE obligation extends to all students described in this paragraph, regardless of the nature or severity of their disability.
POLICY STATEMENT

The District shall not discriminate against any student having a disability, a record or a disability, or who is otherwise regarded as having a disability. The District shall also, as required by law, attempt to locate and identify each student within the District’s jurisdiction who may be an eligible student under Section 504. The District shall evaluate each student identified under Section 504 and provide each student with a FAPE as defined by law.

The District also shall not discriminate against persons based upon any other legally-protected characteristics. Other District publications and policy documents should be consulted to obtain details of those prohibitions, and by the means by which an internal complaint or grievance concerning any type of discrimination may be filled.

DEFINITIONS

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE):

A “free appropriate public education” is the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet the individual needs of students with a disability as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met and is based on adherence to procedures that satisfy Section 504 requirements pertaining to educational setting, evaluation, placement, and procedural safeguards.

Individual with a Disability:

An individual with a disability is a person who:

1. Has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person’s major life activities;
2. Has a record of such an impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

Physical or Mental Impairment:

1. Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more body systems; neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitor-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or
2. Any mental or psychological disorder, such as a cognitive impairment, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.

The Section 504 regulations do not provide an exhaustive list of specific diseases or conditions that may constitute a physical or mental impairment because of the difficulty of developing a comprehensive list of possible diseases and conditions.

Substantially Limits:

A student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity is considered a student with a “disability” under Section 504. This determination is made on a case-by-case basis. Neither Section 504 nor its implementing regulations define the term “substantially limits” but the term is not necessarily synonymous with “unable to perform” or “significantly restricted in” a major life activity.

Except for ordinary eye glasses or contact lenses, the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures may not be considered when assessing whether a student has an impairment that sustains such an impairment. “Mitigating measures” include, but are not limited to: medication; medical supplies, equipment, or appliances; low-vision devices (devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image); prosthetics (including limbs and devices); hearing aids and cochlear implants or other...
implantable hearing devices; mobility devices; oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; use of assistive technology; reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services; and learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications.

A temporary impairment does not constitute a disability for the purposes of Section 504 unless it is of such severity that it results in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities for an extended period of time. This determination is to be made on a case-by-case basis.

If a student has an impairment that is episodic or in remission, the District must consider whether the impairment, when active, would substantially limit a major life activity. If it would, then the student meets the definition of a student with a disability.

**Major Life Activities:**

To be eligible under Section 504, a student’s physical or mental impairment must interfere with one or more “major life activities”. A “major life activity” includes, but is not limited to functions such as:

- Caring for Oneself
- Performing manual tasks
- Walking
- Seeing
- Hearing
- Speaking
- Breathing
- Learning
- Working
- Eating
- Sleeping
- Standing
- Lifting
- Bending
- Reading
- Concentrating
- Thinking
- Communicating
- Operation of major bodily functions (including but not limited to functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions)

This is not exhaustive. An activity or function not found on the list may nonetheless be a major life activity. A student is protected from all forms of discrimination and is eligible under Section 504 if the student has an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, including, but not limited to, learning.

**Record of Impairment and Regarded as having an Impairment:**

Section 504 also protects students from discrimination who have a record of an impairment or who are regarded as having an impairment. A student is “regarded as” having an impairment if the District perceives the student as impaired. The District shall not treat students differently based upon a record that shows that the student was disabled in the past, or based upon an assumption or perception of disability. The District is not required to develop a Section 504 plan for a student who either has a record of an impairment or who is regarded as having an impairment, but who is not otherwise currently eligible under Section 504.

**Current User of Illegal Drugs:**

A student who is currently engaging in the illegal use of drugs is not eligible for services or protections under Section 504 when the District takes disciplinary action on the basis of such drug use even if the student is otherwise a student with a disability. A student who is a former drug user or who is participating in a drug rehabilitation program, however, may be eligible for Section 504 services and protection if the student otherwise meets the definition of an “individual with a disability” as described above.
CHILD FIND

Every year, the District shall attempt to identify and locate every student residing in the district who may be a student with a disability under Section 504, regardless of whether he or she is receiving public education. The District shall notify parents of those students of the District’s Section 504 obligations.

The District may satisfy the notification obligation by advertising, by posting notices in places likely to be visited by qualified students with disabilities and their parents, by including notices in District publications and on its website, and by directly contacting parents of those students who the District believes to be eligible.

The District must also ensure that the information in its Section 504 notices is written in a manner that is easily understandable to a parent. The notice should also contain the name and contact information for the District’s 504 coordinator.

PRE-REFERRAL ASSISTANCE

Pre-referral assistance is an important first step in serving students experiencing difficulties in school. Teachers may vary instructional and behavioral methodologies and expectations, and, by so doing meet students’ educational and behavioral needs; and thereby strengthen the general education program and reduce unnecessary Section 504 and IDEA formal referrals.

Pre-referral assistance, including strategies such as response-to-intervention (RTI), is not intended to impede or be a substitute for necessary referrals for consideration of eligibility under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504. If, at any time, a teacher, counselor, administrator, or other professional staff member has reason to believe that the student’s difficulties may be attributable to a disability, the student should be referred for an evaluation. If a parent/guardian at any time requests an evaluation, the District must either honor that request or notify the parent/guardian of his/her due process rights under the IDEA, or Section 504, as applicable.

PARENT RIGHTS

Section 504 guarantees certain rights to parents of students with disabilities. A Section 504 Notice of Procedural Safeguards (Form C) has been developed for distribution to parents.

SECTION 504: THE PROCESS

This section of the manual addresses important steps in the Section 504 process including: referral, evaluation, eligibility determination, development of the Section 504 Plan, review, and reevaluation.

A. Referral

A Student who, because of a suspected disability, is believed to need services under Section 504 is typically referred for a Section 504 evaluation by a parent, guardian, teacher, other certified school employee, the student if 18 years of age or older, or other concerned adult individual. Upon receipt of a referral:

- The referral should be reduced to writing (Form B)

- The parent should be provided written notice of the referral, and be asked to provide written consent to a Section 504 evaluation. (Form D)

- The parent should be provided with a copy of “Section 504 Notice of Procedural Safeguards” (Form C) with notice of the referral.
B. Evaluation

The evaluation is the starting point for determine whether a student is an eligible student under Section 504. The District is required to conduct an evaluation before providing Section 504 services. The nature and extent of the information needed to make a Section 504 eligibility decision is determined on a case-by-case basis by a group of persons knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of evaluation data, and the placement options, i.e., the Section 504 Team. Information obtained through the evaluation process must be documented and all significant factors must be considered. The District may, but is not required to use the same evaluation process used to evaluate students under the IDEA. The evaluation must draw upon information from a variety of sources and may include:

- School records review
- Observation of the student
- Standardized tests or other assessments by school staff
- Parent/Student/teacher interviews
- Behavior rating scales or other checklists
- Pertinent medical information
- Information provided by the parent
- Other relevant information

Where formal testing is determined to be necessary, the evaluation procedures must ensure that:

1. Tests and other evaluation materials have been validated for the specific purpose for which they are used and are administered by trained personnel in conformance with the instructions provided by their producer.

2. Tests and other evaluation materials include those tailored to assess specific areas of educational need and not merely those which are designed to provide a single general intelligence quotient.

3. Tests are selected and administered so as best to ensure that when a test is administered to a student with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the tests results accurately reflect the student’s aptitude or achievement level or whatever other factor the test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the student’s impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills (except when those skills are the facets that the tests purports to measure).

A medical diagnosis of a physical or mental impairment does not, in and of itself, determine Section 504 eligibility. As mentioned above, Section 504 requires the District to draw upon information from a variety of sources in making its eligibility determination. A medical diagnosis is only one source of information. Additionally, the District may request, but cannot require a parent to provide a medical statement or authorize the release of the student’s medical information as part of the evaluation process. If the District determines, based on the facts and circumstances of the individual case, that a medical assessment is necessary for an appropriate evaluation, the District must ensure that the child receives this assessment at no cost to the parents. If alternative assessment methods meet the evaluation criteria, those methods may be used in lieu of a medical assessment. If a parent refuses to consent to a medical assessment and alternate assessment methods are not available, the 504 Team must proceed to make an eligibility determination based on the information it has on hand.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the District’s evaluation and the development of a Section 504 Plan, if necessary, should be completed no later that 30 school days following the District’s receipt of the parent’s consent to evaluate. If an extension of time is required, the parent must be notified in writing of the extension, the reason for the extension, and the expected date of completion of the process.
C. **Eligibility Determination**

The eligibility determination must be made by a group of persons knowledgeable about the student. The meaning of evaluation data, and placement options and must be documented in writing. The parent of the student should be given a meaningful opportunity to provide input into identification, evaluation, and placement decisions for his/her child. Therefore, the parent should typically be included in the process.

D. **Section 504 Plan**

Where a student is found to be eligible under Section 504, the need for a Section 504 Plan must be determined. (Form K) The Section 504 Team, which should include the parent, and those who will be responsible for determining the services that are needed to provide the student a FAPE. The Plan should specify how services will be provided and by whom.

The Section 504 Plan shall be signed by the Section 504 Coordinator/Designee, indicating the District’s intent to implement the plan. A copy of the Plan, along with the Section 504 Notice of Procedural Safeguards (Form C), must be provided to the parent.

If a Section 504 Plan is developed for a student, all school personnel with implementation responsibilities should be informed of the existence and particulars of the Plan. Failure to implement the Plan can result in non-compliance with Section 504.

E. **Review of Section 504 Plan**

The teacher or other person(s) designated by the Section 504 Team shall monitor the student’s progress and the effectiveness of the student’s Plan. The teacher or other designated person will contact the parent (in person or by phone) at least annually to discuss whether the 504 Plan continues to be appropriate or whether any changes are necessary. If changes are to be considered, the Section 504 Team must be convened.

In addition, the Section 504 Team should be convened and the student’s 504 Plan updated whenever the student’s situation warrants a review (e.g., during natural transition periods, when a teacher or parent raises concerns, or when the student’s performance changes).

F. **Reevaluation**

A reevaluation should be completed at least once every 3 years to redetermine eligibility under Section 504 and before any significant change in the student’s placement.

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF SECTION 504 STUDENTS**

Student who are eligible under Section 504 have certain additional protections when charged with a violation of the Code of Student Conduct which may result in a suspension or expulsion that constitutes a significant change in placement. Similar to suspension or expulsion of a student with a disability under the IDEA, it is necessary to conduct a manifestation determination for a Section 504 student when:

- The suspension or expulsion will be for more than 10 consecutive days; or
- The student has been subjected to a series of suspensions that total more than 10 school days in a school year and a pattern of exclusion exists. Whether a series of suspensions creates a pattern of exclusion is determined on a case-by-case basis taking into account the following factors: the length of each suspension, the proximity of the suspensions to one another, the similarity of the behavior that resulted in the removals, and the total amount of time the student is excluded from school.

If either of the situations above applies, then the District is required to conduct a manifestation determination before any significant change in the student’s placement may occur. The manifestation determination should be conducted within 10 school days of the decision to change the student’s
placement. The parent must be invited to participate in the meeting and provided a copy of Section 504 Notice of Procedural Safeguards (Form C). The purpose of the manifestation determination is to review whether the student’s misconduct was cause by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the student’s disability; or whether the conduct was a direct result of the District’s failure to implement the student’s Section 504 Plan. (Form O)

This determination should be made by a group of persons knowledgeable about the student. The meaning of evaluation data, placement options, the student’s Section 504 Plan, and the disciplinary incident. In making its determination, the 504 Team must review all relevant information in the student’s file, the student’s Section 504 Plan, any teacher observations of the student, and relevant information provided by the parent.

If the 504 Team concludes that the student’s conduct is a manifestation of the student’s disability, the student must remain in (or be returned to) his/her current educational placement, unless the parent and the District agree to change the student’s placement. If the 504 Team concludes that the student’s conduct is not a manifestation of the student’s disability, the District may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to all students. Unlike IDEA, there is no requirement to provide a student whose conduct is not a manifestation of the student’s disability educational services during a disciplinary change in placement unless services are provided to similarly-situated non-disabled students.

Please note that Section 504 allows a student to be disciplined, without going through the manifestation determination review process, when the infraction results from the student’s current illegal use of drugs or alcohol in violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

In the case of a Section 504 student who carries or possesses a weapon to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function, the District may place the student in an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days if a student without a disability would be similarly disciplined. The Section 504 team must meet to develop the interim alternate educational setting after evaluating the student as described in this manual. The interim alternate educational setting must be educationally appropriate and the services provided must enable the student to continue to progress in the general curriculum. The interim alternative educational setting must also address the behavior prompting the disciplinary action.

**IMPARTIAL DUE PROCESS HEARING**

A parent who disagrees with the identification, evaluation, placement, or the provision of a free appropriate education of a student with a disability under Section 504 has the right to request an impartial due process hearing. Request for a Section 504 due process hearing must be made in writing to the District’s Section 504 Coordinator. Upon receipt of such a request, the necessary arrangements will be made by the District, including the selection of a hearing officer. A person who is an employee of the District, or any person having a personal or professional interest which would conflict with his/her objectivity in the hearing, may not be appointed as a hearing officer.

Any party to a hearing has the right to:

1. Be accompanied and advised by counsel or an individual with special knowledge or training about the problems of children with disabilities;
2. Present evidence and cross-examine witnesses
3. Obtain a written or electronic verbatim record of the hearing or obtain alternate forms of the verbatim record to be provided in the parent’s native language;
4. Obtain written or electronic findings of fact and decisions; and
5. Seek judicial review of a hearing officer decision.
The District will adhere to the following timeframes if a due process hearing is requested:

1. A hearing will be scheduled not more than 30 calendar days following receipt of the parent’s written request.
2. The hearing officer will, not later than 30 calendar days after the hearing, draft a written decision (with specific findings of fact) and send a copy of the decision to each party and/or their attorneys/representatives.
3. In the absence of an appeal, the District will implement the decision of the hearing officer within 15 calendar days of the District’s receipt of the decision.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

A person who believes a student has been discriminated against by the District on the basis of the student’s disability or who believes the District otherwise violated Section 504 also has the right to file a complaint through the District’s grievance procedures. (Forms L and M). A person who wishes to file a complaint should contact:

Dr. Courtney Szucs  
Executive Director of Special Services  
Fenton Area Public Schools  
404 W. Ellen St.  
Fenton, MI 48430  
(810) 591-8302

A person may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) if he/she does not wish to use the District’s grievance procedure. A person who wished to file a complaint with OCR should contact:

Office of Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Education  
600 Superior Avenue East, Suite 750  
Cleveland, OH 44114-2611  
FAX: (216) 522-2573; TDD: (877)0521-2172  
Telephone: (216) 522-4970  
E-mail: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov

A discrimination complaint may be filed with OCR at any time. Additionally, if a person is dissatisfied with the District’s resolution of a complaint, that complaint may be filed with OCR at the address above within 60 days of the District’s resolution.
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 CHECKLIST

Student Name: __________________________ Date of Birth: __________________

School Building Attending: ____________________ Grade: _______________________

1. Section 504 Referral:
   □ Receive signed Section 504 Referral for Evaluation (Form B)
   □ Date Received by School District ______________________

2. Parent Consent for Evaluation
   □ Provide parent Section 504 Notice of Referral and Consent for Evaluation (Form D)
   □ Provide parent Section 504 Notice of Procedural Safeguards (Form C)
   □ Date parent consent received by the District _________________________
   □ Date evaluation should be completed __________________________________
     (30 school days from date consent received for initial evaluation)

3. Evaluation Process
   □ Identify Section 504 team members (persons who are knowledgeable about the student,
     the meaning of the evaluation data, and placement options).
   □ Determine needed evaluation data. Note: Evaluation information should be obtained from
     a variety of sources.
   □ Seek parent consent to obtain medical information, if appropriate (Form F).
   □ Send Letter to Physician (Form G) and Physician’s Statement (Form H)
     Note: A parent is not required to provide the School District medical information or
     permission to contact the student’s physician.
   □ Use Teacher Input forms (Form I), if appropriate

4. Section 504 Meeting
   □ Determine date, time, and location for meeting.
   □ Notify Section 504 team members of meeting date, time, and location.
   □ Send parent Section 504 Meeting Notice and Invitation (Form J)
   □ Convene meeting.
   □ Review evaluation data and determine eligibility/continued eligibility.
   □ Complete Section 504 Plan (Form K)
   □ Provide parent Notice of Procedural Safeguards (Form C)
   □ If parent is not present at meeting send a copy of paperwork, including Notice of
     Procedural Safeguards to home address.

5. Section 504 Plan Implementation
   □ Notify persons with implementation responsibilities of the Plan’s existence and their
     responsibilities under the Plan.
   □ Monitor the student’s progress and the effectiveness of the Plan.
   □ Review the Plan at least annually and whenever the student’s situation warrants review
   □ Reevaluate at least every three years.
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 – REFERRAL FOR EVALUATION

Date of Referral: _____________________

Student Name: ____________________________________ Date of Birth: ________________

School Building Attending: __________________________ Grade: ______________________

Reason for Referral: (Please briefly describe the nature of your concern(s), e.g., academic, behavioral, gross/fine motor, social/emotional, medical, other).
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Pre-Referral interventions: (Please indicate interventions, supports, or other actions tried prior to the referral in an effort to address the concern(s) identified above).
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Has the student been referred, evaluated, or provided special education or 504 services in the past?
Yes☐ No☐ If yes, please explain below.
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Person Making Referral:_________________________________________ Title/Position:_________________________________________

Phone:_________________________________________ Email:_________________________________________

Please submit form to:

Dr. Courtney Szucs
Executive Director of Special Services
404 W. Ellen St.
Fenton, MI 48430
(810) 591-8302
Fax: (810) 591-8305
Email: cszucs@fentonschools.org
NOTICE OF SECTION 504 PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

The following is a brief summary description of the rights provided by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to student with disabilities or suspected disabilities, and some related rights provided by Title VI of the Civil rights Act of 1964 and the Family Educational rights and Privacy Act The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed about decisions concerning your child and to inform you of your rights in the event you disagree with any decisions concerning your child. You have the right to:

1. have the District advise you of your rights under federal law;
2. receive notice with respect to Section 504 identification, evaluation, and/or placement of your child;
3. have an evaluation and placement decision for your child based upon information from a variety of sources and which is made by a team of persons knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of evaluation data, and placement options;
4. have your child receive a free appropriate public education, which is the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet individual educational needs of your child as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, if the child is Section 504 eligible;
5. have your child be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate, if the child is Section 504 eligible;
6. have your child take part in and receive benefits from the District without discrimination on the basis of disability;
7. have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided to non-disabled student;
8. examine all relevant records of your child, including those related to decisions about your child’s Section 504 identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement; and obtain copies of those records at a reasonable cost, unless the fee would effectively deny your access to the records;
9. receive information in your native language and primary mode of communication;
10. have a periodic re-evaluation of your child, including an evaluation before any significant change of placement;
11. have your child given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the District;
12. request and participate in an impartial hearing regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child, including a right to be represented by counsel in that process and to appeal an adverse decision;
13. file a complaint in accordance with the District’s grievance procedures or with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

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Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 – NOTICE OF REFERRAL AND CONSENT FOR EVALUATION

Re: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Dear: ____________________________________

(Parent/Guardian Name(s))

Your child, _________________________________, has been referred for an evaluation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504). Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance and requires the school district to provide eligible students a free appropriate public education designed to meet the student’s individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met.

In order to be eligible for services under Section 504, a student must have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. In determining whether a student meets these criteria, the school district will draw upon information from a variety of sources which may include the following:

- School records
- Observations
- Standardized test or other assessments
- Parent/Student/Teacher interviews
- Behavior rating scales or other checklists
- Pertinent medical information
- Information provided by the parent/guardian
- Other relevant information

Your child’s teacher(s), building administrator, counselor, and other individuals (school psychologist, school social worker, etc.) may be involved in the evaluation process. Once the evaluation is completed, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the results of the evaluation. You will be notified of the time, date, and location of the meeting and are welcome to attend and participate in the decision-making process.

The purpose of this letter is to advise that the school district proposes to evaluate your child under Section 504 and to obtain your consent for the evaluation. In addition, enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards which describes the rights afforded parents under Section 504.

Please indicate on the enclosed form your consent for the Section 504 evaluation and return this to me as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Courtney Szucs
Executive Director of Special Services
404 W. Ellen St.
Fenton, MI 48430
(810) 591-8302

Enclosures: Notice of Procedural Safeguards (Form C)
Section 504 parent Consent (Form E)
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 – PARENT CONSENT

Student Name:__________________________________ Date of Birth:___________________

School Building Attending:________________________ Grade:________________________

Parent/Guardian Name:___________________________________________________________

Address:_______________________________________________________________________

Phone:________________________ Email:___________________________________________

CONSENT FOR SECTION 504 EVALUATION

I understand that my child has been referred for an evaluation under Section 504. The evaluation will draw upon information from a variety of sources, which may include, but is not limited to: a school record review, observations of the student, parent/child/teacher interviews, assessments, and other relevant information. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether my child is eligible for services under Section 504.

(Check all that apply)

☐ I have received a copy of the Section 504 Notice of Procedural Safeguards.

☐ I consent to the Section 504 evaluation.

☐ I do not give permission for the Section 504 evaluation.

________________________________________  ____________________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian    Date

Please return this form to: Dr. Courtney Szucs
Executive Director of Special Services
404 W. Ellen St.
Fenton, MI 48430
(810) 591-8302

For School Use Only

Date consent form received by School District: ____________________________________________
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 – AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE AND EXCHANGE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION

Student Name: _______________________________ Date of Birth: _________________

School Building Attending: ___________________________ Grade: __________________

Parent/Guardian Name: __________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________ Email: _____________________________________

I hereby authorize the release and exchange of otherwise confidential medical information between Fenton Area Public Schools and:

Physician’s Name: ______________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________ Fax: _______________________________________

I understand that any information released or exchanged will be treated in a confidential manner by the District and will not be transmitted to a third party without permission. This authorization is valid for a period of ninety (90) days unless earlier revoked by me in writing.

Date: _____________________ 

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

___________________________________________

Relationship to Student

PLEASE FORWARD DOCUMENTS TO:

504 Coordinator Name: ____________________________
504 Coordinator Title: _____________________________
504 Coordinator Address: __________________________

504 Coordinator Phone: ___________________________
504 Coordinator Fax: ___________________________

F-1
FORM G

Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 – COVER LETTER TO PHYSICIAN

[Date]

[Physician’s Name]

[Medical Facility/Practice Name]

[Physician’s Address]

[Physician’s City, State, Zip Code]

Re: __________________________________________

[Student’s Full Name and Date of Birth]

Dear __________________________________________

[Physician’s Name]

The above-named student is currently being evaluated by Fenton Area Public Schools for the purpose of determining the student’s eligibility for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In order to be eligible under Section 504, the student must have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

Enclosed is an authorization for release of information to the School District signed by the student’s parent/guardian. Please assist us with our evaluation by completing and returning the enclosed Physician’s Statement no later than __________________________________________ to:

[Date by which the School District requires information]

504 Coordinator Name: __________________________________________________________

504 Coordinator Title: ___________________________________________________________

504 Coordinator Address: _______________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

We appreciate your assistance in this evaluation process. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

504 Coordinator Name: __________________________________________________________

504 Coordinator Title: ___________________________________________________________

504 Coordinator Phone: _______________________________________________________

G-1

Fenton Area Public Schools-Section 504 Manual-09/15
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 – PHYSICIAN’S STATEMENT

Student Name: ______________________________________ Date of Birth: ______________________

Physician’s Section. Please provide the following information to assist the School District in its Section 504 evaluation. Attach supporting documentation if needed.

1. Does the student have a physical or mental impairment? YES     NO
   If yes, what is the student’s diagnosis?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

2. Describe the student’s current prognosis and the nature and extent of possible change in the student’s condition?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

3. What are the anticipated effects of the physical or mental impairment on the student’s ability to access, participation in, or benefit from school/educational experience?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

4. Does the student have any other special health/medical issues of which the School District should be aware which could affect the student in the school setting?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

5. Is the student currently on any medication of which the School District should be aware? YES     NO
   If yes, please list medication(s), dosage, and frequency. ____________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

6. Additional Comments to assist in educational planning for student.
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

   Physician’s Signature ___________________________________   Date ___________________________
   Physician’s Name: _______________________________________   Phone: _________________________
   Address: ______________________________________________   Email: _________________________
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 – TEACHER INPUT

Student Name: _______________________________ Date of Birth: ________________

Teacher Name: _______________________________ Subject: ________________

1. Do you have any concerns about this student? YES ☐ NO ☐ If yes, please specify the type of concerns below:
   ☐ Academic Concerns (please describe):
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

☐ Behavioral Concerns (please describe):
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

☐ Other Concerns (please describe):
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. Please list any accommodations, interventions, or strategies you have used to address the above concern(s) and indicate how the student responded to the intervention.
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. The student’s grade in class is: ________________

4. Would the student have earned this grade without accommodations, interventions, or strategies you used to address the concern(s)? YES ☐ NO ☐

5. Additional Comments:
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

______________________________ Date: ________________________________
Teacher’s Signature
Fenton Area Public Schools

Student Name: __________________________________________ Date of Birth: __________________

School Building Attending: ________________________________ Grade: _______________________

Date: _____________________

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You are invited to attend a meeting to determine or review your child’s eligibility for services under
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If it is determined that your child is or continues to be
eligible, a Section 504 Plan will be developed (or reviewed and revised) at this meeting.

The meeting will be held on _______________ at _______________ at ____________________________.

[Date]  [Time]  [Location]

The School District has invited the following persons to attend the meeting:

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<th>POSITION/TITLE</th>
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You are encouraged to attend this meeting and participate in the decision-making process. If the meeting
date or time is not convenient for you, please contact me at your earliest convenience and we will attempt
to make other arrangements.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Section 504 Coordinator Name/Title]

Enclosures: Notice of Section 504 Procedural Safeguards (Form C)
Return Envelope

----------------------------------------------------------

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION OF THE FORM IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

_______ I will attend the Section 504 meeting.

_______ I am not able to attend and request the meeting be rescheduled.

_______ I am not able to attend, but request that the meeting be held without me and that the
paperwork be sent to my home address.

Student’s Name (Print)  Parent/Guardian’s Name (Print)

FORM K
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 PLAN

Date of Meeting: ______________________________

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: ______________________________________ Date of Birth: ______________________

School Building Attending: ____________________________ Grade: ___________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: _________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________________ Email: _____________________________________

PURPOSE OF MEETING

☐ Initial ☐ Review ☐ Redetermination ☐ Other ________________

PARENT CONTACT

Method of Contact: _________________________________________________________________

Contacted By: ___________________________________________________________________

Date Contacted: _________________________________________________________________

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Team members should include persons knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of evaluation data,
and placement options.

Parent/Guardian __________________________ Administrator/Desigee __________________________

Parent/Guardian __________________________ Student’s Teacher __________________________

Additional School Staff __________________________ Additional School Staff __________________________

Additional School Staff __________________________ Additional School Staff __________________________

Other __________________________ Other __________________________

Other __________________________ Other __________________________

K-1

FORM K
SUMMARY OF EVALUATION INFORMATION

______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Based on the evaluation information reviewed:

1. Does the student have a physical or mental impairment?  □ Yes  □ No
   If yes, specify the impairment __________________________________________________________

2. Does the impairment substantially limit one or more major life activities?  □ Yes  □ No
   If yes, specify the major life activity(ies) and describe how the impairment substantially limits the
   activity(ies)

   □ caring for one’s self
   □ performing manual tasks
   □ walking
   □ eating
   □ thinking
   □ hearing
   □ speaking
   □ working
   □ operation of a major bodily function
   □ other

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

□ Student is eligible under Section 504

□ Student is not eligible under Section 504.

□ The student has a qualifying disability under Section 504, but does not require a Section 504 Plan at this time.

Rationale:

______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

K-2

FORM K

Fenton Area Public Schools-Section 504 Manual-09/15
ACCOMMODATION PLAN (Complete this section only if student is determined eligible)

List the related aids and services that are necessary for this student to receive a free appropriate education and to have equal access and opportunity to participate in school programs and activities. Note: Each service or accommodation should be directly related to the substantial limitation caused by the student’s impairment. Attach additional pages as necessary.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AREA OF NEED</th>
<th>SERVICE/ACCOMMODATION</th>
<th>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</th>
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NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPLEMENT SECTION 504 PLAN

Plan Implementation Date: _____________________ Next review Date: ___________________________

Person Responsible for Implementation/Review: ___________________________________________________

Date: ____________________ Signature of Section 504 Coordinator/Designee

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

☐ I have received the Notice of Procedural Safeguards under Section 504.

☐ I agree with the determination above.

☐ I disagree with the determination above and understand that I have the right to request an impartial due process hearing by filing a written request for a hearing with the District Section 504 Coordinator.

☐ I understand that my child is eligible for a Section 504 Plan but do not wish to have a plan implemented for my child at this time. I understand that I may request that the District review my child’s disability-related needs in the future.

Date: ____________________ Signature of Parent/Guardian

K-3
The Fenton Area Public Schools has adopted the following Grievance Procedure for addressing complaints of discrimination under Section 504. A person is not required to use this procedure and may instead file a complaint directly with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, 600 Superior Avenue East, Suite 750, Cleveland, OH 44114-2611:

Step 1: A person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against by the Fenton Area Public Schools is encouraged, but is not required, to discuss the matter informally with the appropriate building principal, in the case of a student, or his/her immediate supervisor in the case of an employee.

A. If the building principal or the immediate supervisor is the subject of the complaint, or the grievant is not a student or employee, the grievant may, instead, contact the Fenton Area Public Schools Section 504 Coordinator.

B. The person receiving the complaint shall verbally convey his/her findings to both the person who alleged the violation and the person who is the subject of the complaint within 10 business days.

Step 2: If the informal Step 1 process does not resolve the matter, or if the grievant does not wish to use the informal procedures set forth in Step 1, a written complaint may be submitted to the Fenton Area Public Schools Section 504 Coordinator who will investigate the complaint.

A. If the Section 504 Coordinator is the subject of the complaint, the complaint should be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools who will appoint another administrator to conduct the investigation.

B. The complaint shall be signed by the grievant and include:

1. The grievant’s name and contact information;
2. Facts of the incident or action complained about;
3. Date of the incident or action complained about;
4. Type of discrimination alleged to have occurred; and
5. Specific relief sought.
6. Note: Witness names and other evidence as deemed appropriate by the grievant may also be submitted.

C. An investigation of the complaint will be conducted within 10 business days following the submission of the written complaint. The investigation shall include an interview of the parties and witnesses, a review of relevant evidence, and any other steps necessary to ensure a prompt and thorough investigation of the complaint.

D. A written disposition of the complaint shall be issued within 10 business days of completion of the investigation, unless a specific written extension of time is provided to the parties. Copies of the disposition will be given to both the grievant and the person who is the subject of the complaint.
FORM L

Step 3: If the grievant wishes to appeal the decision in Step 2 above, he/she may submit a signed, written appeal to the Superintendent of Schools within 10 business days after the receipt of the written disposition. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall respond to the complaint, in writing, within 10 business days of the date of the appeal. Copies of the response shall be provided to both the grievant and the person who is the subject of the complaint.

The Fenton Area Public Schools provides assurance that it strictly prohibits any form of retaliation against persons who utilize the Grievance Procedure. Further, a grievant making a complaint is neither required to prosecute the matter nor confront the alleged discriminator or harasser when that would be inappropriate.

If you have questions regarding these procedures or want to file a complaint, please contact the Fenton Area Public Schools Section 504 Coordinator:

Dr. Courtney Szucs
Executive Director of Special Services
Fenton Area Public Schools
404 W. Ellen St.
Fenton, MI 48430
(810) 591-8302
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 COMPLAINT FORM

Name of Injured Party: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ Email: _____________________________________________

If the injured party is a student, please provide the following information:

School building Attending: _______________________ Grade: _______ Date of Birth: __________

Complainant’s Name: ___________________________________________________________________

Relationship to Student: __________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ Email: _____________________________________________

1. Describe the alleged violation of Section 504. Please be specific and describe the specific incident(s), as well as identify the individuals involved, dates/times/locations, etc. Attach pages if needed.

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

2. Describe your proposed resolution to address the alleged problem(s)/violation(s).

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Date: __________________________ Complainant’s Signature

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO:

Dr. Courtney Szucs
Executive Director of Special Services
Fenton Area Public Schools
404 W. Ellen St.
Fenton, MI 48430
810-591-8302

A person who believes that he/she has been discriminated by the Fenton Area Public Schools on the basis of disability may file a complaint through the District’s grievance procedure. A complaint may also be filed with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education, 600 Superior Ave East, Suite 750, Cleveland, OH 44114. You may file a complaint with OCR at any time. Filling a complaint with the School District is not a prerequisite to filing with OCR.
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 – MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION
MEETING NOTICE AND INVITATION

Student Name: _____________________________ Date of Birth: _____________________________

School Building Attending: ___________________________ Grade: _____________________________

Date: __________________

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You are invited to attend a Section 504 manifestation determination meeting to review whether your child’s misconduct was a manifestation of his/her disability.

This meeting will be held on:

Meeting Date: _____________________________
Meeting Time: _____________________________
Meeting Location: __________________________

The School District has invited the following persons to attend the meeting:

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You are encouraged to attend this meeting and participate in the decision-making process. If the meeting date or time is not convenient for you, please contact me at your earliest convenience and we will attempt to make other arrangements.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

____________________________________
Section 504 Coordinator/Designee

Enclosure: Notice of Section 504 Procedural Safeguards (Form C)

Return Envelope

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION OF THE FORM IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

________ I will attend the manifestation Determination meeting.
________ I am not able to attend and request the meeting be rescheduled.
________ I am not able to attend, but request that the meeting be held without me and that the paperwork be sent to my home address.

Student’s Name (Print) __________________________ Parent/Guardian’s Name (Print) __________________________

N-1
Fenton Area Public Schools

SECTION 504 – MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION REVIEW

Date of Review: _________________________  Date of Current Section 504 Plan: _____________________

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: __________________________________________ Date of Birth: ____________________

School Building Attending: ________________________________ Grade: __________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: _____________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: _________________________________ Email: _________________________________________

PARENT CONTACT

Method of Contact: ___________________________________________________________________

Contacted By: _______________________________________________________________________

Date Contacted: ______________________________________________________________________

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

________________________________________  ________________________________________
Parent/Guardian      Administrator/Designee

________________________________________  ________________________________________
Parent/Guardian      Teacher/Service Provider

________________________________________  ________________________________________
Student (when appropriate)    Additional School Staff

________________________________________  ________________________________________
Other       Other

________________________________________  ________________________________________
Other       Other

CURRENT DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE

1. Does the student currently engage in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol?   Yes   No

2. Is the student being disciplined for the possession or use of illegal drugs or alcohol?   Yes   No

If the answer to both questions is yes, the student is not entitled to a manifestation determination review and the student may be disciplined to the same extent that such disciplinary action is taken against students without disabilities.
CONSIDERATION FOR REVIEW – In carrying out a manifestation determination review, the 504 Team shall:

1. Describe the behavior or incident that is subject to discipline.

   1. ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

2. Review and summarize relevant information in the student’s file.

   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

3. Review and summarize relevant information in the student’s Section 504 plan.

   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

4. Review and summarize relevant teacher observations of the student.

   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

5. Review and summarize relevant information provided by the parent.

   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION

In relation to the behavior subject to discipline (see previous page):

1. Was the conduct in question caused by or did it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student’s disability?  Yes □  No □

3. Was the conduct in question a direct result of the School District’s failure to implement the Section 504 plan?  Yes □  No □

If the section 504 team answers “Yes” to either of the questions above, then the behavior must be considered a manifestation of the student’s disability.
The Section 504 team’s determination is that the behavior subject to discipline: (Check one)

☐ Is not a manifestation of the student’s disability (school personnel may apply relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to all student)

☐ Is a manifestation of the student’s disability

Date: ___________________  ______________________________________________________

Signature of Section 504 Coordinator/Designee

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

☐ I have received the Notice of Procedural Safeguards under Section 504

☐ I agree with the determination above.

☐ I disagree with the determination above and understand that I have the right to request an impartial due process hearing by filling a written request for a hearing with the Section 504 Coordinator.

Date: ___________________  ______________________________________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Fenton Area Public Schools-Section 504 Manual-09/15