

504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act

Board Policy: SA-3
Adopted: December 13, 1993
Revised: November 8, 2010

I. General Statement

It is the policy of Haywood County Schools not to discriminate on the basis of handicap in its educational programs, activities or employment policies. Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act is a non-discrimination statute barring discrimination on the basis of handicap. The Board recognizes that the school system has the responsibility to provide a free and appropriate education for all students with handicaps. Students determined to be handicapped under Section 504 and not eligible for special services under IDEA are entitled to appropriate services from regular education. The system will provide aids, benefits and services to disabled persons in the most integrated setting appropriate to the person's needs. They will have an opportunity equal (commensurate) to that provided to nondisabled persons.

II. Regulations

- A. The school system shall establish and maintain procedures to locate, evaluate and determine if a student is a qualified individual requiring accommodation necessary to provide access to educational programs. These procedures will be contained in the Haywood County Schools 504 Manual and will be reviewed annually for possible revisions. Procedures will also be provided in the 504 Handbook on Parents' Rights. The superintendent and the designated 504 coordinator will be responsible for all components of the program.
- B. Parents are entitled to have the opportunity to review relevant educational records under the Family Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Procedures for review of student records are found in Board Policy SA-2.
- C. Haywood County Schools will provide a grievance procedure for parents to file a formal written claim of discrimination under Section 504. These procedures will be a subpart of the 504 manual and also will be included in the 504 Handbook for Parents. Parents or guardians disagreeing with decisions may submit a written request(s) for appeal according to the procedures within 90 calendar days from the date of the decision. The Board desires to secure, at the lowest possible level, equitable solutions to concerns that arise. Therefore, the first appeal takes place at the school level, the second at the system level and the third at the School Board level.