

DE SOTO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION 504 PROGRAM

It is the policy of the Board of Education of the De Soto Area School District to provide a free and appropriate public education to each student with a handicap/disability within its jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the handicap/disability. Students may be handicapped/disabled under this policy even though they do not require services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are handicapped/disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. This includes anyone who:

1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working);
2. has a record of such an impairment; or
3. is regarded as having such an impairment.

If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the District, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer. Procedural safeguards under the law shall be enforced.

The building principal is the coordinator of Section 504 activities in each school.

No discrimination against any person with a handicap/disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the District's programs and practices.

The Special Education Director shall be responsible for coordinating this program with the assistance of the building principals.

LEGAL REF.: Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973

CROSS REF.: 342.2-Exhibit, Section 504 Parent/Student Rights
342.1, Programs for Students with Disabilities
347, Student Records
411, Equal Educational Opportunities
411-Rule, Student Discrimination Complaint
Procedures

APPROVED: November 13, 2006

