

**LAFOURCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD  
P.O. BOX 879  
THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA 70302**

**PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS IN IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION AND PLACEMENT  
as defined in  
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504", is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of the Act is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students.

An eligible student under Section 504 is a student who has a record of having, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity such as learning, self-care, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and performing manual tasks.

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to students with handicaps.\* The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions.

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:**

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her handicapping condition;
2. Have the school system advise you of your rights under the federal law;
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child;
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-handicapped students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school system make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities;
5. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-handicapped students;
6. Have your child receive special education and related services if she/he is found to be eligible under the Education of the Handicapped Act (94-142) or IDEIA (101-476) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;
7. Have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and placement options;
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the system;
9. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the system;
10. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement;
11. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;
12. A response from the school system to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records;
13. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school system refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing;
14. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. You and the student may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you. Hearing request for students eligible under IDEIA must be made to the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Services, Louisiana Department of Education, Post Office Box 94064, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804-9064;
15. Ask for payment of reasonable attorney fees if you are successful on your claim;
16. File a local grievance.

**THE PERSON IN THIS SYSTEM WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING THAT THE SYSTEM COMPLIES WITH SECTION 504 IS: Daphne Jones, TELEPHONE 435-3113.**

**THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) IS: Daphne Jones, TELEPHONE 435-3113.**

\*(29 U.S.C. 706(7), Section 794; 34 C.F.R. Part 104, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g; 34 C.R.F. Part 99)

## **Parent Responsibilities**

- A. Parental participation is crucial in all meetings in which decisions are being made regarding their child. Parents must be informed about the process used to assess their child's response to evidence-based interventions, appropriate strategies for improved achievement and the right to request an evaluation. Parents must be notified of meeting date, time, location and topics to be discussed early enough to ensure the opportunity to participate in the meetings and discussions;
- B. Work with school personnel to set a meeting date
- C. Notify school personnel if individual can't attend scheduled meeting.
- D. Ask questions of school personnel to get clarification on all issues discussed and data presented, so that a meaningful participation can be insured.
- E. Express opinions whether in agreement or disagreement with other committee members; and
- F. Provide any needed documentation of medical or academic deficits/disabilities