

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

NOTICE TO STAFF

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Kingston City School District is obligated to provide a free appropriate public education to each student identified by the Section 504 team as a student with a disability, regardless of the nature and severity of his or her disability. The law and its implementing regulations provide certain rights to qualifying students regarding identification, evaluation and placement.

The provision of an appropriate education is the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that (i) are designed to meet individual educational needs of students with disabilities as adequately as the needs of regular education students are met and (ii) are based upon adherence to procedures that satisfy the regulatory requirements. The provision of a free education is the provision of educational and related services without cost to the disabled student or to his or her parents or guardian, except for those fees that are imposed on non-disabled students or their parents or guardian. The student's Section 504 services shall be placed into writing in the form of a Section 504 plan and shall be made available to all staff members who have a role in implementing the plan. It shall be the responsibility of the [Section 504 Chairperson] to make sure that all staff members are familiar with the plan and their role in implementing the plan. Section 504 plans shall be implemented by the date referenced on the plan or as soon as practicable.

Each student is entitled to an evaluation prior to an initial placement and prior to any subsequent significant change in placement. Initial referrals for eligibility determinations under Section 504 shall be made to the building principal. Eligible students are entitled to have evaluation data and placement decisions based upon information from a variety of appropriate sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social or culture background, adaptive behavior, etc. Each student is entitled to be evaluated with valid and appropriate testing measures administered by trained personnel. Students with disabilities shall be evaluated periodically.

Eligible students are entitled to have placement decisions made by persons knowledge about the student, the meaning of evaluation data, and the placement options available. Such persons shall make up the Section 504 team that will determine initial eligibility for services and review the student's Section 504 plan annually. Any change in the type or amount of services being provided, including the termination or reduction in services contained a student's 504 plan, must first be approved by the Section 504 team.

Students with disabilities are entitled to be educated in the same environment as students without disabilities to the maximum extent that is appropriate in light of the student's needs and to participate equally in any nonacademic and extra-curricular activities offered by the school district. Eligible students are entitled to take part in and receive benefits from public education programs

and activities in an environment free of discrimination due to their disability and are entitled to be educated in facilities and receive services and activities comparable to those provided to students without disabilities.

The person in this school district who is responsible for assuring that the school district is in compliance is the Section 504 Coordinator. The school district's 504 coordinator, John J. Voerg, can be contacted at the following address:

John J. Voerg, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching & Learning

61 Crown Street, Kingston, New York 12401

845-943-3007