

## **Somers School District**

### **SECTION 504 PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS**

Section 504 is an Act that prohibits discrimination against persons with a handicap in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a handicap as anyone who:

1. has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (major life activities include 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.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Somers School District recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a handicap will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides services for students identified as having a disability as defined by the Act, which substantially limits a major life activity. You have the following rights:

1. The right to be informed of your rights under Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act.
2. The right for your children to have equal opportunities to participate in academic, nonacademic, and extracurricular activities in your school.
3. The right to be notified about referral, evaluation, and programs for your child.
4. The right for your child to be evaluated fairly.
5. The right, if eligible for services under Section 504, for your child to receive accommodations, modifications, and related services that will meet the child's needs as well as the needs of students without disabilities are met.
6. The right for your child to be educated with peers who do not have disabilities as much as possible.
7. The right to an impartial hearing if you disagree with the school regarding your child's educational program.
8. The right to review and obtain copies of your child's records.
9. The right to request attorney fees related to securing your rights under Section 504.
10. The right to request changes in the educational program of your child.

If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Denise Messina, 504 Coordinator for the school district, at 860-749-2270 x 2055.