

# WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Section 504 Parent Rights Notice

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Section 504 is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against a person with a disability in any program that receives federal financial assistance. The law defines a person with a disability as anyone who *has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (major life activities include activities such as caring for one's self, walking, seeing, speaking, learning, breathing, sleeping, standing, lifting, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, working, helping, eating, bending, operation of a bodily function).*

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

The Worcester Public Schools has specific responsibilities under the law, which includes the responsibility to identify and evaluate students suspected of having a disability, and to develop a 504 accommodation plan for students who meet eligibility requirements. The Worcester Public Schools prohibits retaliation against any individual asserting rights under Section 504.

The intent of this notice is to inform you of your rights if you disagree with decisions made during this process. **If your child is considered for Section 504 accommodations/services, you have the right to the following:**

1. Have your child take part in and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination based on a disability.
2. Receive written notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child.
3. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with other students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.
4. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided to students without disabilities.
5. Have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources and by individuals who know your child, the evaluation data, and placement options.
6. If eligible, have your child receive accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
7. Give your child an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the school.
8. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement.
9. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable fee or no cost if the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
10. Receive a response from the school to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
11. 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 refuses this request, it shall notify you within a reasonable time and advise you of the right, to a hearing.
12. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, or placement. You and your child may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you. Mediation or due process hearings may be requested through the Bureau of Special Education Appeals, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden MA. 02148; tel. (781) 338-6400.
13. File a grievance pursuant to the Policies and Procedures of the Worcester Public Schools.
14. File a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, 5 Post Office Square, Boston MA 02110-1491; tel. (617) 289-0111.

The person responsible for Worcester Public Schools' 504 compliance is Maura Mahoney, Manager of Social Emotional Learning 508) 799-3175.

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Section 504 Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Receipt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Copy to Student's File