**PARENTS RIGHTS IN BRIEF**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate public education to each student with a disability. It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational accommodations, if needed. Below is a description of the rights granted by federal law to students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep parents fully informed concerning decisions about their child and to inform parents of their rights if they disagree with any of these decisions.

Parent/Student Rights under 504:

1. The right for your child to take part in and receive a free and appropriate public education without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. The right for your child to receive a free and appropriate public education, which includes the right to be educated among non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate and in the student’s least restrictive environment.
3. The right for your child to an evaluation prior to an initial Section 504 placement and any subsequent significant change in placement. Evaluation, education and placement decisions will be made based upon information from a variety of sources and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data and placement options.
4. The right for your child to receive reasonable accommodations, if required, to access educational program in a manner similar to his/her non-disabled peers.
5. The right for your child to access facilities, services and activities comparable to those provided for non-disabled students.
6. The right to receive notice a reasonable time before the District identifies, evaluates or changes your child’s placement.
7. The right to a manifestation determination review before any disciplinary removal of your child that constitutes a significant change in placement, in order to determine if your child’s misconduct was related to his/her disability.
8. The right to inspect and review your child’s educational records, including the right to obtain copies of education records, as required under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois School Student Records Act (ISSRA).
9. The right to have the school district inform you of your rights and procedural safeguards under Section 504 in an understandable language (i.e., native language, primary mode of communication, etc.).
10. The right for your child to have an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
11. The right to file a complaint with the District’s 504 Coordinator or a grievance under the District’s Uniform Grievance Procedure with the District’s 504 Coordinator for any alleged violations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
12. The right to request an impartial hearing regarding your child’s identification, evaluation or educational placement including an opportunity for parental participation in the hearing, and representation by an attorney at parent expense. The hearing officer will be selected by the District. Hearing requests must be addressed to Carrie Ablin, Director of Student Services.
13. The right to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights of the United State Department of Education, which is located at 500 West Madison St., Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661.