

**SERIES 300
INSTRUCTION**

342.11

SECTION 504 – NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY

Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is one of several federal and state statutes which prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities by school districts that receive federal financial assistance. Similar to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Section 504 ensures free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities. This includes all programs or activities of the school district, regardless of whether the specific program or activity involved is a direct recipient of federal funds.

To ensure compliance with federal and state statutes, the school district shall:

- Prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in any respect of school district employment solely on the basis of handicap.
- Make reasonable accommodations in order that facilities, programs and activities may be accessible, usable and open to persons with disabilities.
- Ensure that students who may have disabilities are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services.
- Provide free, appropriate education at elementary and secondary levels, including nonacademic and extracurricular service and activities to persons with disabilities.
- Prohibit the exclusion of any qualified person with disabilities solely on the basis of disability from participation in any preschool education or day care program or activity or any adult education or vocations program or activity.
- Provide each qualified person with disabilities the same health, welfare and other social services as are provided other persons.

Legal References: Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004
 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990
 Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972
 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964
 Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 111.31, 111.34, 118.13, 119.195

Cross references: 411 – Equal Educational Opportunities
 411br – Student Discrimination Complaint Procedures

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