

Section 504
PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS
Identification, Evaluation & Placement

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to students with disabilities/impairments. 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.

Parents have the right to:

1. Have their child take part in and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability/impairment;
2. Have the school system advise them of their rights under federal law;
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of their child;
4. Have their child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled/impaired students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school system make reasonable adjustments to allow their child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities;
5. Have their child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-disabled/impaired students;
6. Have their child receive special education and related services if she/he is found to be eligible under IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;
7. Have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and the placement options;
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to them than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the system;
9. Have their child be given an equal opportunity to participate in non-academic and extracurricular activities offered by the system;
10. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding their child's identification, evaluation, education program and placement;
11. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost, unless the fee would effectively deny them access to the records;
12. Receive a response from the school system to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of their child's records;

9. Ensure that appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action is taken whenever allegations are verified.

E. If, following the investigation by the Section 504 Coordinator, the complainant is not satisfied with the results of the investigation or the proposed resolution, the complainant may request, in writing, that the Superintendent reviews the findings of the Section 504 Coordinator. Upon receipt of a written request from the complainant, the Superintendent shall review the investigative results of the Section 504 Coordinator and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted.

II. Complaints to the District

Title: Superintendent of Schools, Westfield Public Schools
Address: 94 North Elm St., Suite 101, Westfield, MA 01085
Tel #: (413) 572-6403

Title: Director of Curriculum and Instruction, 504 Coordinator
Address: 94 North Elm St., Suite 101, Westfield, MA 01085
Tel #: (413) 562-2298