

Students with Disabilities

Section 504 is a Federal Civil Rights statute that prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in programs receiving federal financial assistance. The Act protects individuals with a disability who:

1. Have a physical or mental 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. Have a record of such impairment; or
3. Are regarded as having such an impairment.

The Sharon Springs Central School District does not discriminate against persons with disabilities and provides access for qualified disabled individuals to all of its activities and programs. It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate public education to each disabled student within its jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the handicap.

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students, who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled under this policy even though they do not require services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Any student who appears to meet the criterion of Section 504 should be referred to the school district's 504 compliance officer for the development of a 504 Accommodation Plan. The development of this plan shall be completed by a team consisting of the parent, the student (when appropriate), teacher(s), related service providers and the 504 compliance officer.