Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. Similarly, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("Title II" or "ADA") prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability by state and local governments. To be protected under Section 504 and the ADA ("collectively, "Section 504/ADA"), an individual must (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) have a record of such an impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such an impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504/ADA, the East Hartford Public Schools recognize a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel, students, parents/guardians and members of the public who participate in school sponsored programs. In this regard, the East Hartford Public Schools prohibit discrimination against any person with a disability in any of the services, programs or activities of the school system.

The school district has specific responsibilities under Section 504 to identify, evaluate and provide an educational placement for students who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. The school district's obligation includes providing access to a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") for students determined to be eligible under Section 504/ADA. Under Section 504, FAPE is defined as the provision of regular or special education and related services that are designed to meet the individual educational needs of a student with a disability as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, and that are provided without cost (except for fees imposed on nondisabled students/parents).

If the parent/guardian of a student disagrees with the decisions made by the professional staff of the school district with respect to the identification, evaluation or educational placement of his/her child, the parent/guardian has a right to request an impartial due process hearing.

In addition, a student or parent/guardian of a student may also file an internal grievance/complaint on these issues or any other type of discrimination on the basis of disability by or within the district by utilizing the grievance/complaint procedures outlined in the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Students and Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act, and/or may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education ("OCR"):

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office U.S. Department of Education 8th Floor 5 Post Office Square Boston, MA 02109-3921 (617) 289-0111

Anyone who wishes to file a grievance/complaint with the district, or who has questions or concerns about this policy, should contact the Director of Pupil Personnel Services, the Section 504 Coordinator for the East Hartford Public Schools, at phone number 860-622-5110.

Legal References:

29 U.S.C. §§ 705, 794

34 C.F.R. Part 104

42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.

28 C.F.R. Part 35

Protecting Students with Disabilities, Frequently Asked Questions About Section 504 and the Education of Children with Disabilities, Office for Civil Rights (March 17, 2011), available at http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html

Dear Colleague Letter, United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (January 19, 2012)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

East Hartford Board of Education Section 504/ADA Grievance/Complaint Procedures Regarding Discrimination Against Students on the Basis of Disability

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("Title II" or "ADA") (collectively, "Section 504/ADA") prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. For the purposes of Section 504/ADA, the term "disability" with respect to an individual means: (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (b) a record of such an impairment; or (c) being regarded as having such an impairment.

I. Definitions

Free appropriate public education (FAPE): for purposes of Section 504, refers to the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet individual educational needs of students with disabilities as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, that are provided without cost (except for fees imposed on nondisabled students/parents), and is based upon adherence to procedures that satisfy the Section 504 requirements pertaining to educational setting, evaluation and placement, and procedural safeguards.

Major life activities: include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, sitting, reaching, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, interacting with others, and working. A major life activity also includes the operation of a major bodily function, such as the functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive systems. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

Mitigating Measures: include, but are not limited to, (a) medication, medical supplies, equipment, appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics including limbs and devices, hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; (b) use of assistive technology; (c) reasonable modifications or auxiliary aids or services; (d) learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications; or (e) psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

I. Definitions, (continued)

Physical or Mental Impairment: (a) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems, such as: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, immune, circulatory, hemic, lymphatic, skin, and endocrine or (b) any mental or psychological disorder, such as intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disability. Physical or mental impairment includes, but is not limited to, contagious and noncontagious diseases and conditions such as the following: orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, and cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, intellectual disability, emotional illness, dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), tuberculosis, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

II. Procedures for Grievances/Complaints Alleging Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

- A. Any eligible person, including any student, parent/guardian, staff member or other employee who feels that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of disability may submit a written complaint to the district's designated Section 504/ADA Coordinator within thirty (30) school days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the prompt investigation and resolution of such complaints. If the complaint is made verbally, the individual taking the complaint will reduce it to writing. It is recommended that a complaint be filed within thirty (30) school days in order to facilitate a timely resolution of the complaint.
- B. At any time, when a complaint involves discrimination that is directly related to a claim regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of a student under Section 504, the complainant may request that the Section 504/ADA Coordinator submit the complaint directly to an impartial hearing officer and request a hearing in accordance with Section III.D. Complaints regarding a student's rights with respect to his/her identification, evaluation or educational placement shall be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth below in Section III.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

- II. Procedures for Grievances/Complaints Alleging Discrimination on the Basis of Disability, (continued)
 - C. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's policy and regulations listed herein is strictly prohibited. The district will not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting or complaint of disability-based discrimination or as a result of an individual's participation or cooperating in the investigation of a complaint. The district will take necessary actions to prevent retaliation as a result of filing a complaint or the participation in an investigation of a complaint.
 - D. If the Section 504/ADA Coordinator is the subject of the complaint, the complaint should be submitted directly to the Superintendent who may conduct the investigation or appoint a designee to conduct the investigation in accordance with these procedures.
 - E. Complaints will be investigated promptly within timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and other extenuating circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible.
 - F. The complaint should contain the following information:
 - 1. The name of the complainant;
 - 2. The date of the complaint;
 - 3. The date(s) of the alleged discrimination;
 - 4. The names of any witnesses or individuals relevant the complaint;
 - 5. A detailed statement describing the circumstances in which the alleged discrimination occurred; and
 - 6. The remedy requested.

However, all complaints will be investigated to the extent possible, even if such information is not included in the complaint. In such circumstances, additional information may be requested by the investigator as part of the investigation process.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

- II. Procedures for Grievances/Complaints Alleging Discrimination on the Basis of Disability, (continued)
 - G. Upon receipt of the complaint, the individual investigating the complaint shall:
 - 1. Provide a copy of the written complaint to the Superintendent of Schools;
 - 2. Meet with the complainant within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of the complaint, identify individuals the complainant believes have relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant may have;
 - 3. Provide the complainant with a copy of the applicable Board Section 504/ADA Policy and these administrative regulations;
 - 4. Conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis for the complaint, including conducting interviews with individuals with information and review of documents relevant to the complaint;
 - 5. Maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process in accordance with state and federal law;
 - 6. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant, and to any individual properly identified as a party to the complaint (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within fifteen (15) school days from the date the complaint was received by the Section 504/ADA Coordinator or Superintendent. The investigator may extend this deadline for no more than fifteen (15) additional school days if needed to complete the investigation. The complainant shall be notified of such extension. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify how the district will remedy any identified violations of Section 504/ADA:

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

- II. Procedures for Grievances/Complaints Alleging Discrimination on the Basis of Disability, (continued)
 - G. Upon receipt of the complaint, the individual investigating the complaint shall: (continued)
 - 7. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, complainant will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary (see subparagraph 6);
 - 8. Ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken whenever allegations are verified. When allegations are verified, ensure that measures to remedy the effects of the discrimination are appropriately considered, and offered, when appropriate. Corrective action should include steps to avoid continuing discrimination.
 - 9. In the event the investigator concludes that there is no violation of Section 504/ADA, the district may attempt to resolve the complainant's ongoing concerns, if possible.
 - H. If the complainant is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of the investigation, the complainant may present the complaint and written outcome to the Superintendent for review and reconsideration within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the findings. This process provides an opportunity for the complainant to bring information to the Superintendent's attention that would change the outcome of the investigation. In submitting the complaint and written outcome for review, the complainant must explain why he/she believes the factual information was incomplete, the analysis of the facts was incorrect, and/or the appropriate legal standard was not applied, *and* how this information would change the investigator's determination in the case. Failure to provide all such information may result in the denial of the review.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

II. Procedures for Grievances/Complaints Alleging Discrimination on the Basis of Disability, (continued)

H. Upon review of a written request from the complainant, the Superintendent shall review the investigative results of the investigator and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with the investigator and complainant, a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint or a decision affirming or overruling the investigator's conclusions or findings. The Superintendent shall provide written notice to the complainant of his/her decision within ten (10) school days following the receipt of the written request for review.

III. Grievance/Complaint Resolution Procedures for Complaints Involving a Student's Identification, Evaluation or Educational Placement

Complaints regarding a student's <u>identification</u>, <u>evaluation</u> or <u>educational placement</u> shall generally be handled using the procedures described below. However, at any time, the complainant may request that the Section 504/ADA Coordinator submit the complaint directly to an impartial hearing officer, and request a hearing in accordance with the provisions of subsection D (below).

Drug/Alcohol Violations

If a student with a disability violates the Board's policies relative to the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol, the Board may take disciplinary action against such student for his/her illegal use or possession of drugs or alcohol to the same extent that the Board would take disciplinary action against nondisabled students. Such disciplinary action is not subject to the complaint or due process procedures outlined below.

A. Submission of Complaint to Section 504/ADA Coordinator

1. In order to facilitate the prompt investigation of complaints, any complaint regarding a student's <u>identification</u>, <u>evaluation</u> or <u>educational placement</u> under Section 504 should be forwarded to the district's Section 504/ADA Coordinator within thirty (30) school days of the alleged date that the dispute regarding the student's identification, evaluation and/or education placement arose. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the resolution of potential educational disputes.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

III. Grievance/Complaint Resolution Procedures for Complaints Involving a Student's Identification, Evaluation or Educational Placement. (continued)

Drug/Alcohol Violations, (continued)

- A. Submission of Complaint to Section 504/ADA Coordinator, (continued)
 - 2. The complaint concerning a student's identification, evaluation or educational placement should contain the following information:
 - a. Full name of the student, age, and grade level;
 - b. Name of parent(s);
 - c. Address and relevant contact information for parent/complainant;
 - d. Date of complaint;
 - e. Specific areas of disagreement relating to the student's identification, evaluation and/or placement; and
 - f. Remedy requested.

However, all complaints will be investigated to the extent possible even if such information is not included in the complaint. In such circumstances, additional information may be requested by the investigator as part of the investigation process.

- 3. Complaints will be investigated promptly within timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and other extenuating circumstances.
- 4. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator shall:
 - a. Forward a copy of the complaint to the Superintendent of Schools;
 - b. Meet with the complainant within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of his/her concerns and determine if an appropriate resolution can be reached. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint;

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

III. Grievance/Complaint Resolution Procedures for Complaints Involving a Student's Identification, Evaluation or Educational Placement, (continued)

- A. Submission of Complaint to Section 504/ADA Coordinator, (continued)
 - 4. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator shall: (continued)
 - c. If, following such a meeting, further investigation is deemed necessary, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator shall promptly investigate the factual basis for the complaint, consulting with any individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the student and/or complainant; and
 - d. Communicate the results of his/her investigation in writing to the complainant and any persons named as parties to the complaint (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements) within fifteen (15) school days from the date the complaint was received by the Section 504/ADA Coordinator.
 - e. In the event that that the Section 504/ADA Coordinator has a conflict of interest that prevents him/her from serving in this role, the complaint shall be forwarded to the Superintendent who shall appoint an investigator who does not have a conflict of interest.

B. Review by Superintendent of Schools

1. If the complainant is not satisfied with the findings and/or resolution offered as a result of the Section 504/ADA Coordinator's review, the complainant may present the complaint and the written statement of findings to the Superintendent for review and reconsideration within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the findings. This process provides an opportunity for complainants to bring information to the Superintendent's attention that would change the outcome of the investigation. In submitting the complaint and written outcome for review, the complainant must explain why he/she believes the factual information was incomplete, the analysis of the facts was incorrect, and/or the appropriate legal standard was not applied, *and* how this information would change the investigator's determination in the case. Failure to provide all such information may result in the denial of the review.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

III. Grievance/Complaint Resolution Procedures for Complaints Involving a Student's Identification, Evaluation or Educational Placement. (continued)

B. Review by Superintendent of Schools, (continued)

- 2. The Superintendent shall review the complaint and any relevant documents maintained by the Section 504/ADA Coordinator or other investigator and shall consult with the Section 504/ADA Coordinator or other investigator regarding attempts to resolve the complaint. The Superintendent also shall consult with the complainant. The Superintendent may attempt to resolve the complainant's concerns alone, or with another appropriate administrator.
- 3. Following the Superintendent's review, he or she shall communicate his/her findings to the complainant within ten (10) school days following his/her receipt of the written request for review.
- 4. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision or proposed resolution, he/she may request that the Superintendent submit the matter to a neutral mediator or to an impartial hearing officer. This request for mediation or a hearing should be made within fifteen (15) school days of the Superintendent's decision. Mediation shall only occur by mutual agreement of the parties.

C. Mediation Procedures:

A parent/guardian or student aged 18 or older may request mediation with a neutral mediator to attempt to resolve a disagreement with the decisions made by the professional staff of the school district with respect to the identification, evaluation or educational placement of the student.

1. A request for mediation regarding a student's identification, evaluation or educational placement under Section 504 should be forwarded to the district's Section 504/ADA Coordinator within thirty (30) school days of the alleged date that the dispute regarding the student's identification, evaluation, and/or education placement arose or within fifteen (15) school days of the Superintendent's decision in reviewing a complaint handled through the grievance/complaint procedure described in Section III.B, above.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

III. Grievance/Complaint Resolution Procedures for Complaints Involving a Student's Identification, Evaluation or Educational Placement, (continued)

- C. Mediation Procedures: (continued)
 - 2. The request for mediation concerning a disagreement relating to a student's identification, evaluation or educational placement should contain the following information:
 - a. Full name of the student, age, and grade level;
 - b. Name of parent(s);
 - c. Address and relevant contact information for parent/complainant;
 - d. Date of complaint;
 - e. Specific areas of disagreement relating to the student's identification, evaluation and/or placement; and
 - f. Remedy requested.
 - 3. Upon receipt of a request for mediation, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator shall:
 - i. Forward a copy of the request for mediation to the Superintendent of Schools;
 - ii. Retain a neutral mediator who is knowledgeable about the requirements of Section 504/ADA and has an understanding of a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") under Section 504 and the distinctions between and among Section 504, the ADA and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA").
 - 4. The mediator shall inform all parties involved of the date, time and place of the mediation and of the right to have legal counsel or other representation at the complainant's own expense, if desired.
 - 5. The mediator shall meet with the parties jointly, or separately, as determined by the mediator, and shall facilitate a voluntary settlement of the dispute between the parties, if possible.
 - 6. All statements, offers, or discussions and/or information shared during the mediation process, but not available from other means, shall be confidential, and may not be used in a subsequent hearing or other administrative or judicial proceeding related to the disagreement that is the subject of the mediation.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

- III. Grievance/Complaint Resolution Procedures for Complaints Involving a Student's Identification, Evaluation or Educational Placement. (continued)
 - C. Mediation Procedures: (continued)
 - 7. If the parties are not able to reach a voluntary settlement of the dispute, the complainant may request an impartial hearing, as described below.

D. Impartial Hearing Procedures:

An impartial due process hearing is available to a parent/guardian of a student, or a student aged 18 years of age or older who disagrees with the decisions made by the professional staff of the school district with respect to the identification, evaluation or educational placement of the student, or otherwise makes a claim of discrimination relating to the identification, evaluation or educational placement of the student.

- 1. The request for mediation concerning a disagreement relating to a student's identification, evaluation or educational placement should contain the following information:
 - a. Full name of the student, age, and grade level;
 - b. Name of parent(s);
 - c. Address and relevant contact information for parent/complainant;
 - d. Date of complaint;
 - e. Specific areas of disagreement relating to the student's identification, evaluation and/or placement; and
 - f. Remedy requested.
- 2. Upon receipt of a request for an impartial due process hearing, the Board shall retain an impartial hearing officer. The impartial hearing officer must be someone who is knowledgeable about the requirements of Section 504/ADA and has an understanding of a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") under Section 504 and the distinctions between and among Section 504, the ADA and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA").

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

- III. Grievance/Complaint Resolution Procedures for Complaints Involving a Student's Identification, Evaluation or Educational Placement, (continued)
 - **D. Impartial Hearing Procedures:** (continued)
 - 3. The impartial hearing office shall schedule a pre-hearing conference with the District and the parent(s) or student aged 18 years of age or older (or legal counsel for the student) to identify the issue(s) for hearing, set the hearing schedule and address other administrative matters related to the hearing, including the option for mediation.
 - 4. The impartial hearing officer shall inform all parties involved of the date, time and place of the hearing and of the right to present witnesses, other evidence and to be represented by legal counsel at each party's own expense, if desired.
 - 5. The impartial hearing officer shall hear all aspects of the complainant's complaint concerning the identification, evaluation or educational placement of the student and shall reach a decision within forty-five (45) school days of receipt of the request for hearing. The decision shall be presented in writing to the complainant and to the Section 504/ADA Coordinator.
 - 6. An impartial hearing officer under Section 504 does not have jurisdiction to hear claims alleging discrimination, harassment or retaliation based on an individual's disability unless such a claim is *directly related* to a claim regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student under Section 504.
 - 7. The time limits noted herein may be extended for good cause shown for reasons including, but not limited to, permitting more time for thorough review of the record, presentation of evidence or opportunity for resolution.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (continued)

IV. The Section 504/ADA Coordinator for this district is:

Director of Pupil Personnel Services East Hartford Public Schools 1110 Main Street East Hartford CT 06108 860-622-5110

V. Complaints to Federal Agencies

At any time, the complainant has the right to file a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02109-0111 (TELEPHONE NUMBER (617) 289-0111); http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html.

EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NOTICE OF PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS UNDER SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") is a non-discrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by recipients of federal funds. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA" or "Title II") also prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by state and local governments. To be protected under Section 504 and the ADA ("collectively, "Section 504/ADA") as an individual with a disability, an individual must (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) have a record of such an impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such an impairment.

Under Section 504, the school district has specific responsibilities to identify, evaluate and provide an educational placement for students with a disability. The school district's obligation includes providing such eligible students a free appropriate public education ("FAPE"). Section 504 defines FAPE as the provision of regular or special education and related services that are designed to meet the individual educational needs of a student with a disability as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, and that are provided without cost (except for fees imposed on nondisabled students/parents).

A student is eligible for regular or special education and related services under Section 504 if it is determined that he/she has a mental or physical disability that substantially limits one or more major life activity such as (but not limited to): caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating and working. A major life activity may also include the operation of a major bodily function, such as an individual's immune, digestive, respiratory or circulatory systems.

A student can have a disability and be covered by Section 504/ADA even if he/she does not qualify for, or receive, special education services under the IDEA.

The purpose of this notice is to provide parents/guardians and students 18 years of age or older with information regarding their rights under Section 504. Under Section 504, you have the right:

- 1. To be informed of your rights under Section 504;
- 2. To have your child take part in and receive benefits from the East Hartford Public School District's education programs without discrimination based on his/her disability.

- 3. For your child to have equal opportunities to participate in academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities in your school without discrimination based on his/her disability;
- 4. To be notified of decisions and the basis for decisions regarding the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of your child under Section 504;
- 5. If you suspect your child may have a disability, to request an evaluation, at no expense to you and to have an eligibility determination under Section 504 (and if eligible, placement decisions made) by a team of persons who are knowledgeable of your child, the assessment data, and any placement options;
- 6. If your child is eligible for services under Section 504, for your child to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This includes the right to receive regular or special education and related services that are designed to meet the individual needs of your child as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met;
- 7. For your child to receive reasonable accommodations and services to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school, extra-curricular and school-related activities;
- 8. For your child to be educated with peers who do not have disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate;
- 9. To have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided to non-disabled students;
- 10. To review all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's Section 504 identification, evaluation, and educational placement;
- 11. To examine or obtain copies of your child's educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;
- 12. To request changes in the educational program of your child, to have your request and related information considered by the team, a decision made by the team, and if denied, an explanation for the team's decision/determination;
- 13. To request an impartial due process hearing if you disagree with the school district's decisions regarding your child's Section 504 identification, evaluation or educational placement. The costs for this hearing are borne by the local school district. You and the student have the right to take part in the hearing and to have an attorney represent you at your expense;

- 14. To file a local grievance/complaint with the district's designated Section 504/ADA Coordinator to resolve complaints of discrimination including, but not limited to, claims of discrimination directly related to the identification, evaluation or placement of your child; and
- 15. To file a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

The Section 504/ADA Coordinator for this district is:

Director of Pupil Personnel Services East Hartford Public Schools 1110 Main Street East Hartford CT 06108 860-622-5110

For additional assistance regarding your rights under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, you may contact:

Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office U.S. Department of Education 8th Floor 5 Post Office Square Boston, MA 02109-0111 (617) 289-0111.

[The following sample forms may be useful in addressing § 504 issues. They are not meant to be part of the policy and are included for your convenience.]

SECTION 504 REFERRAL FORM

Name:	DOB:	Age:
Date of Referral:		
MaleFemale Primary Langua	age: EnglishOtl	her:
Referring Person:	Relationship to St	udent:
Parent/Guardian: Address:	Home Phone:	Work Phone
Parent/GuardianAddress:	Home Phone:	Work Phone
Current School:	Grade:	
A. Reason for Referral: (Identifying A		
A. Reason for Referral: (Identifying A	Areas of Concern)	
A. Reason for Referral: (Identifying A	Areas of Concern)	
	Areas of Concern)	
A. Reason for Referral: (Identifying A	Areas of Concern)	
A. Reason for Referral: (Identifying A	Areas of Concern) attach copies of documenta	ation)
A. Reason for Referral: (Identifying A	Areas of Concern) attach copies of documenta	ation)
A. Reason for Referral: (Identifying A	Areas of Concern) attach copies of documenta	ation)

SECTION 504 REFERRAL FORM

SECTION 504 MEETING NOTICE

		Date:	
	:		
City/Zip Code:			
Parent/Guardian	:		
Ctuanti			
Dear		:	
Please be advise	ed that a Section 504 meeting wil	l be convened on behalf	of your child,
		. The meeting is schedul	ed as follows:
(C	hild's Name)		
Date:	Time:	<u></u>	
Location:			
The purpose of t	this meeting is to:		
Plan eval	uation/initial evaluation		
Determin			
	Section 504 Plan		
Review n	ew information and/or possible	need for re-evaluation	
Review re	e-evaluation		
Other			
The following ir	ndividuals have been invited to a	ttend:	
Name	Administration	Name	Title
Name	Instruction	Name	Title
Tuille	monuction	Tanic	THE
Name	Related Service	Name	Title
Name	Student, if appropriate	Name	Title

SECTION 504 MEETING NOTICE

Please make every effort to attend this meeti	ng. You may bring anyone of your choosing to this
meeting. The meeting can be rescheduled a	t a mutually agreed upon time and place. A COPY
OF YOUR RIGHTS IS ENCLOSED. If y	you have any questions or wish to reschedule the
meeting, please contact me:	

	Sincerely,
	[Name and Title]
A compact this notice has been cent to	the moment(s) as 504 Dights have been two formed to
the student at age 18.	the parent(s), as 504 Rights have been transferred to

SECTION 504 PLAN

NAN	ИЕ:	_ DOB:	GRADE:	
SCH	OOL:			
DAT	TE OF MEETING:			
1.	Describe the nature of the concern:			
2.	Describe all evaluation data gathered:			
3.	Identify the disability(ies) (i.e., physic one or more major life activities):	cal or mental i	mpairment that substantially im	pacts
4.	Describe the basis for determining the	•	(if any):	
5.	Describe how the disability affects each	ch of the impac	eted major life activities:	

6. Please describe the analysis undertaken to determine the potential impact on a major life activity, without consideration of the ameliorating effects of any "mitigating measures," except for ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses. Mitigating measures may include, but are not limited to, (a) medication, medical supplies, equipment, appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics including limbs and devices, hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; (b) use of assistive technology; (c) reasonable modifications or auxiliary aids or services; (d) learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications; or (e) psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

SECTION 504 PLAN

Yes

No

Did the team consider the impact of the disability on a major life activity <u>without</u> the potential impact of any mitigating measures (except for ordinary eyeglasses and contact lenses)? For example, if the student is currently using a hearing aid, did the team consider whether the student has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity if the student were not using the hearing aid?

aids and services)	require accommodations) under section 504, in ordand/or to receive education	der to access his/her educ	cation and other programs
accommodation t	that is necessary:		
Accommodation/ Service	Frequency (time/daily/weekly)	Responsible staff/ implementer	Additional Description
		•	
Use this space for narr	rative descriptions, if nece	essary:	

SECTION 504 PLAN

SECTION 504 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION WORKSHEET

Name:	DOB:	Age:
Male: Female:		
Date of Meeting: Curr	ent School:	Grade:
Case Manager:		
Parent/Guardian:		
Address:	Home phone:	
	Work phone:	
Parent/Guardian:		
Address:	Home phone:	
	Work phone:	
Reason for Meeting: Initial Review	w Revise Plan	
Describe the nature of the concern:		

SECTION 504 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION WORKSHEET

Describe any evaluation procedure, tests, recommendations or documentation used as a basis for the decision:

☐ Cognitive:(dated)	☐ Social/Emot./Beh:(dated)
☐ Classroom Observation:(dated)	☐ Developmental:(dated)
☐ Health/Med:(dated)	☐ Adaptive:(dated)
☐ Communication:(dated)	☐ Motor:(dated)
☐ Achievement:(dated)	_
☐ Other:(dated)	_
If further medical information is needed steps to be taken to verify and/or obtain ad	in order to determine eligibility, please specify ditional information:
Consent to communicate wi	th student's physician/medical provider requested
information (specify)	rdian(s) to provide additional medical or other
Consultation with school district's medical ad	lvisor and/or school nurse requested
Other (please describe):	

SECTION 504 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION WORKSHEET

Specify the mental or physical impairment(s):	
(as recognized in DSM-5 or other respected source illegal drug use)	ce if not excluded under 504/ADA, e.g., current
Indicate the Major Life Activity or Activities S	substantially Affected by the Disability:
Does Require a 504 Plan	Does NOT Require a 504 Plan

Student's Name:	Date of Birth:	Grade:
School:	Date of Meeting:	
Section 504 Case Manager:Title:		
A. The purpose of the meeting: Review initial referral Determine eligibility under Section 504; special education, or related aid or services are r school programs and services or to receive FAPI Re-evaluation to review eligibility determinated Reevaluation due to change in placement (real Review before other significant change in placement (real Review/revise Section 504 Plan	equired for Student to received to received the student to new information lated to discipline)	e equal access to
B. 504 Team Members Present (Must include in student, the meaning of evaluative data, and place		geable about the
Name: Name: Name: Name: Name:	Role: Role: Role: Role:	
C. Review student's current academic and overa activities. Include and attach referral informat nature of concerns, basis for suspecting disab student (including academic, social, behavioral expression).	ion if this is an initial refer- ility, and impact of suspect	ral, and describe

D. Eligibility Determination:

A student is eligible to receive services and/or accommodations under Section 504 if it is determined that he/she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. The team must consider a variety of sources when determining whether a student has such impairment.

1. What sources of information are available at (Include relevant dates and names of evaluation)	
School records review (dated)	Observations of student (dated)
Grades & report card review (dated)	Teacher reports (dated)
Parent and/or student report (dated)	Informal assessments (dated)
Medical information (dated)	Nursing Assessment (dated)
Standardized testing (dated)	Parent/Student Interviews (dated)
Checklists/behavior rating scales (dated) _	
Other (dated)	
physical or mental impairment that substantial Yes If "YES," continue to num	,

➤ If the team determines additional information is necessary and the information to be obtained includes testing, team must obtain parent consent on *Consent for Section 504* Evaluation form; tests/evaluations recommended by the team shall be conducted at District expense. Parent may wish to provide outside evaluation and/or testing information from a qualified provider to be considered by the team; such evaluations and/or testing shall be at Parent expense. District shall consider such outside information at team meeting, and must determine whether the information provided

by the Parent meets the District's standards for evaluators and evaluations. If it is necessary to communicate with outside providers, the District must obtain a release to communicate with professionals outside of district. Once needed information is gathered, a 504 meeting will be reconvened to continue the process of determining eligibility.

3. Does the student have one or more physical or mental impairments?

use).

A "physical or mental impairment" means (a) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems, such as: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, immune, circulatory, hemic, lymphatic, skin, and endocrine or (b) any mental or psychological disorder, such as intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disability. Physical or mental impairment includes, but is not limited to, contagious and noncontagious diseases and conditions such as the following: orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, and cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, intellectual disability, emotional illness, dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), tuberculosis, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

Virus infection (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), tuberculosis, drug addiction and alcoholism.
□ NO □ YES
If "NO": If no physical or mental impairment exists, the student is <u>not</u> identified as a individual with a disability. Go to Section E of this form.
If "YES": What are the impairments? Please describe as recognized in DSM-5 or other respected source, if possible, if not excluded under Section 504/ADA (e.g., illegal drugs)

> Attach all supporting documentation to this form. A statement of "YES" without supporting documentation is insufficient to meet this standard.

> If the team determines that the student is identified as having one or more physical or mental impairments, continue to the next page to determine whether there is a substantial limitation to one or more major life activities.

4. Does the identified impairment substantially limit one or more major life activities?

Please describe degree of limitation as compared to other students. Ask: Is the impairment impacting one or more major life activities? Which ones? How is one more major life activity impacted? What is the impact at school?)
A "major life activity" includes, but is not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, sitting, reaching lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking communicating, interacting with others, and working. A major life activity also include the operation of a major bodily function, such as the functions of the immune system special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bower bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemmalymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive systems. The operation of a major boding function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.
Mitigating Measures:
In determining eligibility, the team must consider the impact of the disability without consideration of the ameliorative effects of any "mitigating measures" that the student makes using. For example, if the student is currently using a hearing aid, did the team consideration whether the student would have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activity if the student were <u>not</u> using the hearing aid?
Therefore, with respect to this student, did the team consider the impact of the disability on

5.

contact lenses)?

No \square

Yes

Mitigating measures include, but are not limited to, (a) medication, medical supplies, equipment, appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics including limbs and devices, hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; (b) use of assistive technology; (c) reasonable modifications or auxiliary aids or services; (d) learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications; or (e) psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

major life activity without the potential impact of mitigating measures (except eyeglasses or

Ple	ase include any information relevant to consideration of mitigating measures:
E. Do	es the student have a disability under Section 504?
1.	Does the student have one or more physical or mental Impairments? No Yes
2.	Does the physical or mental impairment substantially limit one or more Major Life Activity? No Yes
	questions must be answered YES , based on the preceding review of evaluative data, in r to determine that the student has a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation
3.	Based on the answers to #1 and #2 above, does the student have a disability? under Section 504? No Yes
If the F.	e answer to #3 is "No," skip to Section I. If the answer to #3 is "Yes," continue to Section
stu	es the student require a Section 504 Accommodation Plan in order to provide the ident with a free appropriate public education and access to the school's programs g. curriculum, extra-curricular activities, facilities, etc.)?
If	"Yes," the team must develop a Section 504 Plan.
	this a re-evaluation (i.e. review of current plan/status) before a significant change in acement (e.g., review of new information)?
	☐ No ☐ Yes [If "NO," skip to Section H]
1.	What is the anticipated significant change of placement?
	 New information received about the student, the impairment or current placement ☐ Graduation ☐ Change in program due to Disciplinary Action ☐ Other
(cr	outer

	ase describe the updated information considered by the team in conducting valuation.	
det	additional information, individualized testing and/or evaluations are necessary ermine continued eligibility and/or what is needed in the Student's Plan to provide FAI ase indicate.	
	Consider: Is the student still eligible? No Yes	
	3. If "Yes," does the Plan as currently written provide FAPE? Yes No No If "No," what changes to the plan are required? Explain basis for each decision is of information gathered in re-evaluation.	
	ner Relevant Information Discussed at Meeting, including any requests rejected, sis for such rejection.	

I. Summary of Actions Taken

Recorder Title
Other (please specify)
A re-valuation prior to significant change in placement has been conducted
<u> </u>
Additional information and/or evaluations are required
A reevaluation has been conducted
Student is NOT identified as a person with a disability under Section 504.
A Section 504 Plan was developed.
Student is identified as a person with a disability under Section 504 and in need of regular or special education, or related services or aids
Insufficient information is available to determine student's eligibility. More evaluation information will be obtained prior to convening another Section 504 Team Meeting.
Parent/Guardian (or student if age18 or over) was provided written notice of rights und Section 504 at the meeting.

[This form is intended to be used if a parent or guardian or student 18 years of age or older wishes to pursue mediation or an impartial hearing with respect to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the student. It is not intended to be used a general complaint or grievance form for all parties eligible under Section 504].

SECTION 504 REQUEST FOR MEDIATION/HEARING

This form is intended to be used if a parent or guardian or student 18 years of age or older wishes to pursue mediation or an impartial hearing with respect to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the student.

Name of person requesting mediation/hearing:	
Relationship to student:	
Address:	
Phone #:	
Fax #:	
I/we request a MEDIATION / HEARI	NG (please circle) concerning:
,	, who resides at
(Name of student) (Date of birth	1)
and attend	ds
	Name of school)
The date of the Section 504 meeting at wh	nich the parties failed to reach agreement
Description of the issues in dispute between the pareducational placement of the student:	arties regarding the identification, evaluation or
Proposed resolution or corrective action you wish	to see taken with regard to the stated issues:
Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date

SECTION 504/ADA DISCRIMINATION

GRIEVANCE/COMPLAINT FORM FOR ISSUES REGARDING STUDENTS

(This form is intended to be used if an individual has grievance/complaint under Section 504/ADA alleging discrimination on the basis of a disability, including in the identification, evaluation or educational placement of a student).

	ne of Complainant:e:	
Cont	tact Information for Complainant:	
(Add	dress)	
(Hor	me Tel. #)	
(Cell	1 # or Work #)	
Nam	ne of the Student:	
Addı	ress of Student (if different from above):	
Age/	/Grade Level/School/ (if applicable):	
Pleas	se describe the nature of your complaint:	

SECTION 504/ADA DISCRIMINATION

GRIEVANCE/COMPLAINT FORM FOR ISSUES REGARDING STUDENTS

7.	Proposed resolution or corrective action you wish to see taken with regard to the stated issues:

EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AGREEMENT TO CHANGE SECTION 504 PLAN WITHOUT CONVENING A SECTION 504 MEETING

Student:	DOB:
Grade:	
School:	504 Plan Being
Changed:	
Parent/Guardian:	
We agree to make the changes to the stude documents specified below and which are atta these changes were not made at a Section 50 described in the attached documents. We under the parent can request a Section 504 meeting at that this agreement can be made only if the chastudent's program.	oched to this agreement. We understand that 04 meeting. We agree only to the changes erstand that this agreement is optional and that t any time to review the Plan. We understand
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
School District Representative	Date

This agreement must be signed by an administrator of the school district who has full authority to sign such a document on behalf of the school district and who is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum and is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the public agency.

EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AGREEMENT TO CHANGE SECTION 504 PLAN WITHOUT CONVENING A SECTION 504 MEETING

The following documents are attached to this agreement:

Amendments (please specify)	
Other (please specify)	

EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE AND CONSENT TO CONDUCT A SECTION 504 EVALUATION/RE-EVALUATION

	Date:
Dear	
Your child,evaluation to (student's name) determine eligibility for services under Section 504. of parents before conducting such an evaluation.	, has been referred for an (DOB) The school district must obtain the consent
The tests/evaluation procedures listed below were re	commended:
TEST/EVALUATION AREA OF ASSESTED	SSMENT EVALUATOR(S)
Adaptations/accommodations required	for this evaluation are:
If the student requires physical adaptations in order following adaptations are required:	or testing/evaluations to be completed the
If the student's native language is other than English	, the following adaptations are required:
☐ No adaptations/accommodations required	

EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE AND CONSENT TO CONDUCT A SECTION 504 EVALUATION/RE-EVALUATION

PARENTAL CONSENT

☐ I give my consent for the [DISTRICT NAME] Public evaluations described above. I understand that this consent time.	
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
☐ I do not give my consent for the [DISTRICT NAME] Pure evaluations described above. I understand that the school dinecessary, which may include requesting an impartial hear receives or continues to receive a free appropriate public education.	istrict must take steps as are ing, to ensure that my child
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE AND CONSENT FOR PLACEMENT ON SECTION 504 AND FOR THE PROVISION OF SECTION 504 ACCOMMODATIONS/SERVICES

			Date:
Dear			
Your child,been		,	has been evaluated and has
been	(student's name)	(DOB)	
provision of a	under Section 504. Prior to the inaccommodations/services under So), the district requires your conse	Section 504 (as descr	-
PARENTAL (CONSENT		
Section 50	consent for the [DISTRICT NAI 4 plan as described in the Sectionsent may be revoked at any time	n 504 Plan attached	-
	Parent/Guardiar	Signature	Date
~	give my consent for the [DISTR lations/services described in the S	=	*
	Parent/Guardian Signature	:	Date
Included with	this form are:		
	n 504 Plan developed at the Sectice of Rights Under Section 504.	on 504 meeting on _	·

WORKSHEET FOR MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION

(For those situations when the expulsion of a 504 student is contemplated; or following a series of suspensions which constitute a change in placement)

STU	DENT	:	GRADE:	DATE:	
1.	Sect	ion 504 Meeting Partic	ipants:		
NAME			Title		
2.	DES	CRIBE NATURE OF	STUDENT'S DISABILT	Y:	
3.	DES	CRIPTION OF MISC	ONDUCT:		
	a.	Date of Disciplinary	Action:		
	b.	Date Parents Notified	of Disciplinary Action:		
	c.	504 of Notice of Righ	nts Given? Yes No		

WORKSHEET FOR MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION

4.	INFORMATION CONSIDERED IN CONDUCTING A MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION:			
	(Each item below must be considered. Check box as each topic is addressed.)			
	[] Teacher Observations of the Student			
	Relevant Information Supplied by Parents			
	[] Evaluations and Diagnostic Results			
	Student's 504 Plan			
	Relevant Information Supplied by School Staff			
	[] Other (describe)			
5.	Was the misconduct in question caused by the student's disability, or does the misconduct in question have a <u>direct and substantial relationship</u> to the student's disability?			
	[]YES []NO			
	Comments:			
6.	Was the misconduct in question a <u>direct result</u> of the district's failure to implement the 504 Plan (in relationship to the misconduct in question)?			
	[] YES [] NO			
	Comments:			
7.	If the answer to either #5 or #6 is " Yes ", the behavior under review is considered a manifestation of the student's disability.			
8.	If the answer to both #5 and #6 is "No", the behavior under review is not considered a			

manifestation of the student's disability.

WORKSHEET FOR MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION

Procedure if Misconduct is not a Manifestation of the Student's Disability:

If the manifestation determination team determines that the misconduct in question is <u>not</u> a manifestation of the student's disability, school personnel may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to the student in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to a student without disabilities.

Procedure if Misconduct is a Manifestation of the Student's Disability:

If the manifestation determination team determines that the misconduct in question <u>is</u> a manifestation of the student's disability, the 504 Team should:

1) conduct a functional behavioral assessment unless the district had conducted a functional behavioral assessment before the behavior that resulted in the change of placement occurred, and implement a behavioral intervention plan for the student;

<u>or</u>

- 2) if a behavioral intervention plan already has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior; **and**
- 3) return the student to the placement from which the student was removed, unless the parent and the district agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.