

22 MYTHS ABOUT SECTION 504

This is a list of common misconceptions regarding Section 504. The items listed below are not true. All decisions about eligibility and services should be made on an individual basis based upon documented data from a variety of sources.

Accommodations

1. For a student with an allergy (e.g., nuts, pollen, chemical sensitivity), a public school must make the environment of the school building completely and totally allergy free.
2. **Parents' requests for specific accommodations must be followed.**
3. Little to no data is sufficient to implement a requested accommodation under Section 504.
4. **The data used to support an accommodations request decreases as the accommodation request becomes more complex.**
5. Ferrets and small helper monkeys (less than 15 pounds) are allowable service animals in public schools under Section 504.

College

6. **Accommodations in public schools are required to be followed 100% by colleges and universities.**
7. SAT board and other testing agencies require the same level of assessment documentation as public schools.

Eligibility

8. **Section 504 committees diagnose students for eligibility.**
9. A medical diagnosis for ADHD is required for Section 504 eligibility.
10. **A physician can simply prescribe Section 504 services and accommodations, and a district must provide them.**
11. Doctors' notes trump all other data in regards to Section 504 eligibility, accommodations, and services.
12. **Doctors make placement decisions for students under Section 504.**
13. Some disabilities make students automatically eligible for Section 504 and accommodations.
14. **Public schools must provide Section 504 services and accommodations to students in private schools.**

Grades and More

15. Section 504 guarantees an equal outcome as nondisabled students (e.g., grades).
16. **Section 504 guarantees a better a score on a test or assignment.**
17. Students in accelerated classes (honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate) are eligible for additional accommodations as compared to regular education class accommodations.
18. **Section 504 makes public schools maximize a student's performance.**
19. Homebound placement is the least restrictive placement for students receiving Section 504 services and accommodations.
20. **Homebound services are equal to or better than instruction with peers in a public or charter school.**
21. Dismissal from special education makes a student automatically eligible for Section 504 services and accommodations.
22. **Revocation of consent for special education automatically makes the student eligible for the same services under Section 504.**