

SECTION 504 POLICY

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) *prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance*. In order to comply with Section 504 and its implementing regulations, the Calhoun County Board of Education (“Board”) recognizes its responsibilities to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students and to make accessible to persons with disabilities its facilities, programs, and activities. The Board prohibits discrimination against any individual with a disability on the basis of that disability in any of the programs, activities, policies, and/or practices in the school district.

As used in this policy and in any implementing Procedural Guidelines, “*an individual with a disability*” means a person who has, has a record of, or is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

It is the intent of the Board to ensure that qualified students within its jurisdiction who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 are identified, evaluated, and provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Students identified and determined to be eligible under Section 504 shall be afforded access to appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled and eligible for services under Section 504 and this policy even if they do not qualify for or require services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Students who are eligible for services under IDEA shall be served under existing Special Education programs.

The Board directs the Superintendent to prepare and implement Procedural Guidelines to facilitate the prompt, fair and appropriate identification, referral, evaluation and placement of students with disabilities who qualify for accommodations under Section 504. Parents/guardians may participate in the evaluation process and have the right to a due process hearing in the event they disagree with the determination made by the professional staff of the District. The Procedural Guidelines shall provide a system of safeguards for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504 and this policy. Due process rights of students with disabilities and their parents under Section 504 will be enforced.

Inquiries, concerns, or complaints may be directed to:

Mrs. Kassie Hollingsworth
Section 504 Coordinator
Post Office Box 2084
Anniston, Alabama 36202