



Maple Shade Public Schools

170 Frederick Avenue • Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052

Anthony Ferrante

Director of School Counseling/504 Chairperson

Notice of Rights Section 504 1973 Rehabilitation Act

The "504" in "504 plan" refers to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, which specifies that no one with a disability can be excluded from participating in federally funded programs or activities, including elementary, secondary or postsecondary schooling. "Disability" in this context refers to a "physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities." This can include physical impairments; illnesses or injuries; communicable diseases; chronic conditions like asthma, allergies and diabetes; and learning problems. A 504 plan spells out the accommodations that will be needed for these students to have an opportunity perform at the same level as their peers.

- Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act is a non-discrimination statute barring discrimination on the basis of handicap.
- It is the policy of the Maple Shade School District not to discriminate on the basis of handicap in its educational program, activities, or employment policies as required by the Act.
- The 1973 Rehabilitation Act requires the school system to locate, evaluate, and determine if the student is a qualified individual requiring accommodations necessary to provide access to educational programs.
- Parents are entitled to have the opportunity to review relevant educational records under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Parents or guardians disagreeing with the decisions reached by school personnel regarding necessary accommodations for access to educational programs may request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer by notifying the school principal.
- The designated school district Section 504 Compliance Officer is Joseph Langowski, Assistant Superintendent who may be reached at the Maple Shade School District, 856-779-1750, extension 5281.