

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits the denial of public education participation or enjoyment of the benefits offered by public school programs because of a child's disability. Section 504 provides that No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, as defined in section 706(8) of this title, shall, solely by reason of her or his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...29 U.S.C. Section 794(a). For school districts, the term *qualified* refers to any child eligible for a district's public education program, approximately age three through twenty-one. The term *handicapped* has been replaced with the term *disabled* since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Disability in Section 504 refers to any person who (i) has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, (ii) has a record of such impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having such an impairment § 104.3(j)(2)(ii) (Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations)

For further information about these services, please contact Special Education Services at 334-382-5188.