

## **VASHONISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS UNDER SECTION 504**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as “Section 504” is a non-discrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of the Act is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non disabled students. <sup>1</sup>

An eligible student under Section 504 is a student who has, or has a record of having, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, self-care, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and performing manual tasks.

*Dual Eligibility:* Some students will be eligible for education services under both Section 504 and the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Students who are eligible under the IDEA have many specific rights that are not available to students who are eligible solely under Section 504.

*Procedural Safeguards* (Due process procedures for parents and children) prepared by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is available through the District’s Special Education Department and sets out the rights assured by the IDEA. It is the purpose of this Notice form to set out the rights assured by Section 504 to those disabled students who do not qualify under the IDEA.

The enabling regulations for Section 504 as set out in 34 C.F.R. Part 104 provide parents/and students with the following rights.

1. You have right to be informed by the District of your rights under Section 504. (The purpose of this Notice form is to advise you of those rights.) (34 C.F.R. 104.32.)
2. Your child has the right to a free appropriate education designed to meet his/her individual needs as appropriately as the needs of non-disabled students are met. (34 C.F.R. 104.33)
3. Your child has the right to free educational services except for those fees that are imposed on non-disabled students or their parents. Insurers and similar third parties are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student. (34 C.F.R. 104.33)
4. Your child has a right to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students. (34 C.F.R. 104.34)
5. Your child has a right to placement in the least restrictive environment. (34 C.F.R. 104.34.)

<sup>1</sup> Equal educational benefits and opportunities does not mean the “same” benefits and/or opportunities.

6. Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to an initial Section 504 placement and any subsequent significant change in placement. (34 C.F.R. 104.35.)
7. Testing and other evaluation procedures must conform to the requirements (34 C.F.R. 104.35) as to validation, administration, areas of evaluation, etc. The District shall consider information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social and cultural background, adaptive behavior, physical or medical reports, student grades, progress reports, parent observations, and anecdotal reports. (34 C.F.R. 104.35.)
8. Placement decisions must be made by a group of persons (i.e., Student Intervention Team, 504 Team), including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities. (34 C.F.R. 104.35.)
9. If eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic reevaluations, generally every three years. (34 C.F.R. 104.36.)
10. You have the right to examine relevant records. (34 C.F.R. 104.36.)
11. You have a right to notice of any action by the District in regard to the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child. (34 C.F.R. 104.36.)
12. You have a right to an impartial hearing with respect to the District's sanctions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, with opportunity for parental participation in the hearing and representation by an attorney. (34 C.F.R. 104.36.)
13. If you wish to challenge the actions of the School's 504 Committee decision in regard to your child's identification, evaluation, and education placement, complete a grievance form available from your child's building 504 coordinator and submit it to Vashon Island School District Director of Student Services.
14. You have a right to review of the District's decision by a court of competent jurisdiction. (34 C.F.R. 104.36.)
15. You have the right to file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights. The address of the Regional Office which covers Vashon is:

U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
Henry M. Jackson Federal Building  
915 Second Avenue, Room 3310  
Seattle, WA 98174-1099  
Phone: (206) 220-7900  
Web Site: [www.ed.gov/OCR](http://www.ed.gov/OCR)  
E-mail Address: [OCR.Seattle@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Seattle@ed.gov)