TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS Tolland, Connecticut

BOARD POLICY REGARDING: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of

1973

Number: 5171

Students

Approved: 2/28/01 Revised: 10/22/03 Revised: 6/25/08 Revised: 5/27/09 REVISED: 3/12/14

Section 504 is an Act which prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal Financial Assistance. For the purposes of Section 504, the term the act defines a disability with respect to an individual as means:

- 1. Have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; or
- 2. Have a record of such an impairment; or
- 3. Be being regarded as having such an impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Tolland Public Schools recognize a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel, students, parents and members of the public who participate in school sponsored programs. In this regard, the Tolland Public Schools will not knowingly permit prohibits discrimination against any person with a disability in any of the programs operated by the school system. Persons who feel that they may have been discriminated against on the basis of disability should contact the Tolland Public Schools Section 504 Coordinator.

The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act, with respect to providing access to Free Appropriate Educational Services Public Education (FAPE) for students who qualify under Section 504. These responsibilities include the obligation to identify, to evaluate, and to afford access to appropriate educational services. Determined to be eligible under Section 504. Under Section 504, FAPE is defined as the provision of regular or special education and related services that are designed to meet the individual Educational needs of a student with a disability as adequately as the needs of a student without

disabilities are met, and that are provided without cost (except for fees imposed on nondisabled students/parents).if the parent or guardian of a student disagrees with the decisions made by the professional staff of the school district with respect to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of [their child he/she has a right to an impartial hearing. additional written information about an impartial hearing is available from the Section 504 coordinator. His/her child, a parent/guardian has a right to utilize the complaint procedures outlined in the Board's Administrative Regulations, and/or may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

Any student, parent, guardian or other individual who believes he/she has been discriminated against by or within the district on the basis of a disability may utilize the complaint procedures outlined in the Board's Administrative Regulations, and/or may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

Please anyone who wishes to file a complaint, or who has questions or concerns about this policy, should contact Kathleen Raymond Director of Pupil Services, § 504 Coordinator for the Tolland Public Schools, at phone number 870-6818 with any additional questions or concerns about this policy.

LEGAL REFERENCES: 29 U.S.C. § 794

34 C.F.R. § 104 ET SEQ 42 U.S.C. 12101 Et Seg.

ADA Amendments of 2008, Public Law 110-325

Protecting students with disabilities, frequently asked questions about Section 504 and the Education of Children with Disabilities, Office of Civil Rights (March 27, 2009), available at http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html

Dear colleague letter, United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (January 19, 2012)