

Section 504
PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS
Identification, Evaluation & Placement

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to students with disabilities/impairments. The intent of the law is to keep parents fully informed concerning decisions about their child and to inform parents of their rights if they disagree with any of these decisions.

Parents have the right to:

1. Have their child take part in and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability/impairment;
2. Have the school system advise them of their rights under federal law;
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of their child;
4. Have their child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled/impaired students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school system make reasonable adjustments to allow their child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities;
5. Have their child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-disabled/impaired students;
6. Have their child receive special education and related services if she/he is found to be eligible under IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;
7. Have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and the placement options;
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to them than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the system;
9. Have their child be given an equal opportunity to participate in non-academic and extracurricular activities offered by the system;
10. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding their child's identification, evaluation, education program and placement;
11. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost, unless the fee would effectively deny them access to the records;
12. Receive a response from the school system to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of their child's records;

13. Request amendment of their child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of their child. If the school system refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify them within a reasonable time, and advise them of the right to a hearing;
14. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding their child's identification, evaluation, education program or placement. The parents and the student may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent them. Hearing requests must be made to the attention of the Section 504 Coordinator(s);
15. Ask for payment of reasonable attorney fees if they are the prevailing party;
16. File a local grievance.

The 504 Coordinator for the Westfield Public Schools is:

Title: Director of Curriculum/Instruction
Address: 1029 North Road, Unit 22-23, Westfield, MA 01085
Tel #: (413) 562-2298