



# West New York Board of Education

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Department of  
Special Services

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*Maximizing all students' potential  
for success in an ever-changing world.*

## **Information Regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

**Section (§) 504** is an Act which prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who:

1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (e.g., caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working);
2. Has a record of such an impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under **§504**, the West New York School District recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person solely due to his/her disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the West New York School District.

The West New York School District has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and if the student is determined to be eligible under **§504**, to afford access to the appropriate educational services. If the parent/guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional faculty/staff of the West New York School District, he/she has the right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also specifies rights related to educational records. This Act gives the parent/guardian the right to: 1) Inspect and review his/her child's educational records; 2) make copies of these records; 3) receive a list of all individuals having access to those records; 4) ask for an explanation of any item in the records; 5) ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the child's rights; and 6) a hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make the amendment.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact:

**Mr. Gary Molenaar, §504 Officer for the West New York School District**

**Phone number: (201) 553-4000 Ext. 7152**

**Or**

**e-mail: [gmolenaar@wnyschools.net](mailto:gmolenaar@wnyschools.net)**

**WE ARE AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

*We Do Not Discriminate As Of Race, Creed, Age, National Origin, Gender, Sexual Orientation, or Disability*