

## **Section 504 of the rehabilitation Act of 1973**

### **Salt Lake**

Section 504 is an act which *prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities* in any program receiving federal assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who:

- Has a mental or physical impairment which sets substantial limits on one or more major life activities (such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, or working).
- Has a record of such impairment
- Is regarded as having such an impairment

SLCSD has the responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability should knowingly be permitted in any of the programs or practices of the school system.

School district responsibilities under Section 504 include the obligation to notify, to evaluate and, if the student is determined to be eligible under 504 to afford access to appropriate services.

Any parent or teacher may contact their school's 504 liaisons to request that a student's need be reviewed and accommodations considered. The school's 504 liaison will convene a Student Services/504 Committee Meeting at which parents and teachers will present data on the student's disability, the disability's impact on a major life activity, and possible accommodations that might be implemented at the school to meet the student's needs. Eligibility for a 504 plan will be determined. If a student is found eligible, a 504 plan will be created that identifies the agreed upon accommodations specific to each student. This plan will then be put into effect. If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school, he or she has the right to initiate an appeal process through the District 504 Coordinator.