

**SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

It is the intent of the County Board of Education to promote provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Therefore, it is the policy of the Mendocino County Board of Education that no otherwise qualified individual with disabilities as defined in Section 504 shall solely by reason of her/his disability be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity offered by the County Office of Education.

In furtherance of this policy, the County Board acknowledges their duty in the following areas:

1. Identification of qualified students, and
2. assessment of the educational and related service needs of referred or qualified students, and
3. provision of a free, appropriate public education for all qualified students, and
4. provision of a system of procedural safeguards which includes notice and an impartial hearing on the issues of identification, evaluation, and educational placement, and
5. provision of appropriate procedural safeguards with regard to discipline of qualified students.

In furtherance of this policy and federal law, the Mendocino County Office of Education shall include in its annual notice to all students a copy of this policy. In addition, the County Superintendent or designee shall provide training for appropriate staff on the issues related to this policy enforcement and the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The County Superintendent of Schools shall develop and revise as necessary the regulations and procedures necessary to implement the requirements of Section 504 and this policy.

For further information on this policy and the legal requirements, staff, parents, and other interested members of the public may contact the Associate Superintendent of Educational Services who is the designated Section 504 Compliance Officer for the County Office of Education.

The provisions of this policy and all related regulations and procedures of the Mendocino County Office of Education are intended to supplement, and not to replace any applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Individuals with complaints regarding the County Office's compliance with the applicable federal and state laws are encouraged to bring such complaints/concerns forward to the above assigned compliance officer or to the County Superintendent of Schools. In addition, such complaints may be forwarded to the appropriate governmental agency such as the Office for Civil Rights.

*Legal Reference:*

*29 U.S.C. 706(8) et seq.*

*34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 104*