

**POLICY REGARDING EMPLOYEES AND
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AND
TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Similarly, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“Title II” or “ADA”) prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability by public entities, including public education systems. To be protected under Section 504, an individual must (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) have a record of such an impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such an impairment.

Employees or members of the public who are interested in requesting or discussing reasonable accommodations for a disability should contact:

Robert Cronin
Superintendent of Schools
5 Linsley Street
North Haven, CT 06473
Phone: 203-239-2581

Any employee or member of the public may file a complaint regarding discrimination on the basis of disability by or within the district by utilizing the grievance/complaint procedures outlined in the Board’s Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Students (available at <http://www.north-haven.k12.ct.us/>). Anyone who wishes to file a grievance/complaint with the district, or who has questions or concerns about this policy, should contact Dana Corriveau, Director of Student Services, Section 504/ADA Coordinator for the North Haven Public Schools, at phone number 203-239-2581.

Any employee or member of the public may also file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (“OCR”):

Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office
U.S. Department of Education
8th Floor
5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109- 3921
(617) 289-0111

Employees may also file a complaint regarding employment discrimination on the basis of disability with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office, John F. Kennedy Federal Building, 475 Government Center, Boston, MA 02203 (TELEPHONE NUMBER 800-669-4000).

Employees may also file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103-1835 (TELEPHONE NUMBER 800-477-5737).

Legal References:

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, et seq.;
34 C.F.R. Part 104
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.; 28 C.F.R. Part
35

ADOPTED: _____
REVISED: _____

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

North Haven Board of Education Section 504/ADA Grievance/Complaint Procedures Regarding Employees and Third Parties

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“Title II” or “ADA”) (collectively, “Section 504/ADA”) prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability.

I. Definitions

Disability: For the purposes of Section 504, the term “disability” with respect to an individual means: (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (b) a record of such an impairment; or (c) being regarded as having such an impairment.

Major life activities: include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, sitting, reaching, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, interacting with others, and working. A major life activity also includes the operation of a major bodily function, such as the functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive systems. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

Mitigating Measures: include, but are not limited to, (a) medication, medical supplies, equipment, appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics including limbs and devices, hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; (b) use of assistive technology; (c) reasonable modifications or auxiliary aids or services; (d) learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications; or (e) psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

Physical or Mental Impairment: (a) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems, such as: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, immune, circulatory, hemic, lymphatic, skin, and endocrine; (b) any mental or psychological disorder, such as intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disability; or (c) an impairment that is episodic or in remission if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active. Physical or mental impairment includes, but is not limited to, contagious and noncontagious diseases and conditions such as the following: orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, and cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, intellectual disability, emotional illness, dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), tuberculosis, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

II. Procedures for Grievances/Complaints Alleging Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

- A. Any eligible person, including any student, parent/guardian, employee or third party who feels that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of disability (including

differential treatment, harassment and retaliation) may submit a written complaint to the district's designated Section 504/ADA Coordinator (*see* contact information below) within thirty (30) school days of the alleged occurrence. Complaints alleging discrimination on behalf of a student will be investigated under the Board's administrative regulations regarding students (Administrative Regulation _____); complaints by employees or other non-students will be investigated under this regulation.

- B. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the prompt investigation and resolution of such complaints. Complaints received after thirty (30) school days of the alleged occurrence shall be investigated to the extent possible, given the passage of time and the impact on available information, witnesses and memory. If the complaint is made verbally, the individual taking the complaint will reduce it to writing. Individuals wishing to make a complaint about discrimination against students on the basis of disability, or alleging discrimination on behalf of a student are referred to the district's Section 504/ADA policies and regulations regarding students (Policy No. 5145.4), and accompanying administrative regulations).
- C. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's policy and regulations listed herein is strictly prohibited. The district will not tolerate any retaliation that occurs as a result of the good faith reporting or complaint of disability-based discrimination or as a result of an individual's participation or cooperating in the investigation of a complaint. The district will take necessary actions to prevent retaliation as a result of filing a complaint or the participation in an investigation of a complaint.
- D. If the Section 504/ADA Coordinator is the subject of the complaint, the complaint should be submitted directly to the Superintendent who may conduct the investigation or appoint a designee to conduct the investigation in accordance with these procedures. If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the Board shall designate an appropriate party to conduct the investigation in accordance with these procedures.
- E. Complaints will be investigated promptly. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and other extenuating circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible.
- F. The complaint should contain the following information:
 - 1. The name of the complainant;
 - 2. The date of the complaint;
 - 3. The date(s) of the alleged discrimination;
 - 4. The names of any witnesses or individuals relevant the complaint;
 - 5. A detailed statement describing the circumstances in which the alleged discrimination occurred; and
 - 6. The remedy requested.

However, all complaints will be investigated to the extent possible, even if such information is not included in the written complaint. In such circumstances, additional information may be requested by the investigator as part of the investigation process.

- G. Upon receipt of the complaint, the individual investigating the complaint shall:
1. Provide a copy of the written complaint to the Superintendent of Schools;
 2. Meet separately with the complainant and the respondent within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of the complaint, identify individuals the complainant and respondent believe have relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant may have;
 3. Provide the complainant and the respondent with a copy of the applicable Board Section 504/ADA Policy and these administrative regulations;
 4. Consider whether and which interim measures might be appropriate for an alleged victim and the respondent pending the outcome of the District's investigation;
 5. Conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis for the complaint, including conducting interviews with individuals with information and review of documents relevant to the complaint;
 6. Maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process in accordance with state and federal law;
 7. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant, and respondent (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements) within fifteen (15) school days from the date the complaint was received by the Section 504/ADA Coordinator or Superintendent. The investigator may extend this deadline for no more than fifteen (15) additional school days if needed to complete the investigation. The complainant and the respondent shall be notified of such extension. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify how the district will remedy any identified violations of Section 504/ADA;
 8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint, and no later than fifteen (15) school days after the start of the following school year. The complainant and the respondent will receive notice if the investigation has been impeded by the summer recess, and interim measures may be implemented as necessary (see sub-paragraph 4);
 9. Ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken whenever allegations are verified. When allegations are verified, ensure that measures to remedy the effects of the discrimination and prevent its recurrence are appropriately considered, and offered, when appropriate. Corrective action should include steps to avoid continuing discrimination.

10. In the event the investigator concludes that there is no violation of Section 504/ADA, the district may attempt to resolve the complainant's ongoing concerns, if possible.

G. If the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of the investigation, the appealing party may request review and reconsideration of the conclusion of the complaint within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written outcome. In requesting review, the appealing party must submit the complaint, the written outcome of the complaint, and explain why he/she believes the factual information relied upon by the investigator was incomplete, the analysis of the facts was incorrect, and/or the appropriate legal standard was not applied, *and* how this information would change the investigator's determination in the case. Failure to provide all such information may result in the denial of the review.

Upon review of a written request from the appealing party, the Superintendent shall review the investigative results of the investigator and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with the investigator and other relevant witnesses, a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint or a decision affirming or overruling the investigator's conclusions or findings. The Superintendent shall provide written notice to the appealing party and the other party of his/her decision within ten (10) school days following the receipt of the written request for review. When a written request for review is received during summer recess, the Superintendent conduct the review as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the review, and no later than ten (10) school days after the start of the following school year. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

III. The Section 504/ADA Coordinator for this district is:

Dana Corriveau
Director of Student Services
Title IX Coordinator, Section 504 Coordinator
5 Linsley Street
North Haven, CT 06473
203-239-2581 *corriveau.dana@northhavenschools.org*

IV. Complaints to Federal or State Agencies

At any time, the complainant has the right to file a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02109-0111 (TELEPHONE NUMBER (617) 289-0111);
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>.

Employees may also file a complaint regarding employment discrimination on the basis of disability with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office, John F. Kennedy Federal Building, 475 Government Center, Boston, MA 02203 (TELEPHONE NUMBER 800-669-4000) or the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103-1835 (TELEPHONE NUMBER 800-477-5737).

**SECTION 504/ADA DISCRIMINATION
GRIEVANCE/COMPLAINT FORM**

(This form is intended to be used if an individual has grievance/complaint under Section 504/ADA alleging discrimination, harassment or retaliation on the basis of disability. Complaints filed on behalf of students should be made under the North Haven Board of Education Section 504/ADA Grievance/Complaint Procedures Regarding Discrimination Against Students on the Basis of Disability).

1. Name of Complainant: _____ Date: _____

2. Contact Information for Complainant:

(Address)

(Home Tel. #)

(Cell # or Work #)

3. Name of subject of alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation (if different than Complainant):

4. Address of subject of alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation (if different from above):

5. Relationship of Complainant to School (e.g., position, visitor, parent) (if applicable):

6. Please describe the nature of your complaint (including date(s) of alleged discrimination and the names of any witnesses or individuals with information relevant to complaint):

Please submit additional pages as may be necessary.

7. Proposed resolution or corrective action you wish to see taken with regard to the stated issues:

